Hafa Adai!

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NMC credits still transferable—Fernandez. PAGE 2

Japanese pro baseball player sues resort. PAGE 3

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you intend to celebrate Valentine's Day this year?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Winehouse Wins

A vibrant, exuberant Amy Winehouse dominated the Grammys, winning five awards and delivering a defiant performance via satellite.

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NOTICE

The *Saipan Tribune* office will be closed today from 9am to 2pm for the funeral of its late publisher, JP Pangelinan. The office will re-open at 2pm. We apologize for the inconvenience.

'Mess left at Labor cleaned up'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said yesterday that the mess left behind by past administrations at the Department of Labor has now been cleaned up.

Fitial announced a "new era" at Labor as he disclosed the department's installation of a new computer system, a new website, cleaning up the backlog of applications and labor cases, and new operating procedures.

Fitial also announced his appointment of former Rep. Cinta Kaipat as the new Labor deputy secretary.

Labor director Barry Hirshbein and other Labor officials demonstrated to the media yesterday how they upgraded the Labor and Immigration Identification System with the new installation of a new computer system.

After the demonstration, Labor Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas, Hirshbein, Kai-

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JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Department of Labor LIIDS computer specialist 3 Tom Torres, webmaster Ron Smith and Labor staff Marla Rosario demonstrate to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday how they upgraded the Labor and Immigration Identification System with the installation of a new computer system at the Department of Labor office in San Antonio.

Another pedestrian hit by car

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An intoxicated man was injured after a car hit him as he was crossing Beach Road, Garapan Sunday night.

Balbino Mamaril, 54, suffered abrasions to the left arm and multiple contusions and lacerations to the right side of his head.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said yesterday that Mamaril was drunk

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JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Department of Public Safety medical technicians transfer Balbino Mamaril, 54, into the ambulance after he was hit by a Kia Sephia while crossing the road near the Marianas Eye Institute along Beach Road, Garapan Sunday night.

Aetna demands $2.4M payment

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The firm now running the government's health care plan says it will terminate the privatized program if runoff claims from the old plan is not settled soon.

Aetna Global Benefits is demanding payment of $2.4 million of so-called runoff claims. These claims are medical costs that members of the old Group Health and Life Insurance Program incurred, but did not file a claim for before Oct. 31, 2007.

GHLI's old third party administrative

See AETNA on Page 4

Too many students, too few teachers

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

Twelve schools in the Public School System have so many students that their teachers are handling an average of four students above the accepted student-teacher ratio.

According to federal programs adviser Tim Thornburgh, the Board of Education's approved ratio is to have no more than 20 students per teacher.

However, that isn't the case in nine public elementary schools in the CNMI. The elementary schools that exceed this

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Local

NMC credits still transferable—Fernandez

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas College president Carmen Fernandez has assured that the institution is still maintaining its accreditation and that the earned credits of its students will continue to be transferable despite its show-cause status.

"We met with the students, faculty and staff to assure that we're still accredited and accreditation will still continue through this course," Fernandez said.

She added that students who wish to attend the institution during this period are still welcome.

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges placed the college on show cause status last month, asking it to explain why its accreditation should not be removed within six months.

The ACCJC cited substantial noncompliance with NMC's failure to adequately address recommendations issued by the Commission over the last several years and has remained unable to make progress in using student achievement data for regular assessment of education programs.

Loss of accreditation will mean that students may not be able to transfer credits as many institutions look at accreditation when deciding whether to allow transfer of credits.

Accreditation also serves as proof to the public that a college meets standards of quality, and allows students to access financial aid programs.

NMC's potential loss of accreditation could potentially lead to the closure of the college.

A progress quarter show-cause report is required of NMC on Oct. 15, 2008. Then in January 2008, the Commission will issue a decision as to accreditation reaffirmation or other sanctions against the college.

Board of Regents acting chair Joey San Nicholas said the college is aware of the seriousness of the sanctions and that it is prepared to move forward.

"As a matter of fact, we have been moving forward," San Nicholas said.

The ACCJC stated in its letter that since Fernandez assumed the college presidency in May 2007, NMC had started to show significant improvements and compliance.

However, San Nicholas said, "the report from the Commission states that we have quite a ways to go and we're prepared to do just that."

"NMC is the commonwealth's only college institution. This is a wake-up call for all of us and we should all come together and fix it," he added.

Governor said eager to help NMC meet full compliance

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez met with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and lawmakers on Friday to discuss the necessary funding needed for NMC to achieve full compliance with the Western Association of School & Colleges' Accrediting Commission for Schools and Colleges.

Fitial had expressed his concern about NMC's accreditation and has asked Fernandez to put the highest priority on complying with the accreditation requirements.

Fitial said he is willing to help but he has to work within the limits of available resources.

NMC is seeking $1.5 million to $2 million in federal CIP money as supplemental funding for NMC's renovation projects.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said, "Because CIP funds have already been obligated, any CIP funds to be allocated toward NMC would have to be de-obligated first by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs."

"We would have to consult with Interior. Substantial CIP funds have already been allocated to CUC [Commonwealth Utilities Corporation]," he added.

Reyes said the government's resources are diminishing because of the collapse of the garment industry and a number of other government agencies, including the Public School System, are also seeking additional funding.

"We will do what we can, but we would have to work closely with the Legislature and pass a realistic budget that takes all factors into account, including NMC," Reyes said.

NMC is subject to submit a progress show-cause report on Oct. 15, 2008. In January 2009, the Commission will issue a decision as to accreditation reaffirmation or other sanctions against the college.

"Our intention is to step up all efforts to ensure we are coming to full compliance so as to achieve reaffirmation in January 2009," said Fernandez.

"The Governor expects full compliance with the demands of the accreditation committee," Reyes said.

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Japanese pro baseball player sues resort

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORT

Japanese professional baseball player Kouichi Taniguchi filed yesterday a lawsuit in federal court over injuries he sustained when the wooden deck he was standing on at a resort in Marpi collapsed.

Taniguchi asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order defendant Kan Pacific Saipan Ltd., owner of Marianas Resort and Spa, to pay him damages for pain and suffering and emotional anxiety resulting from his injury.

Taniguchi, through counsel Douglas F. Cushnie, also demanded for compensation for medical, hospital, and rehabilitation, plus damages for loss of income.

The plaintiff demanded a jury trial.

Saipan Tribune contacted Marianas Resort yesterday afternoon for comment, but a staff said their general manager was not available.

Taniguchi was a guest at Marianas Resort and Spa on Nov. 6, 2006. Cushnie said that on that date, while Taniguchi was standing on a wooden deck overlooking the pools and the ocean, the deck collapsed under him. Taniguchi allegedly fell several feet to the ground.

As a result of the collapsing deck, Cushnie said, his client suffered various cuts, bruises, and ligament tears.

He said Taniguchi is a profes-

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January's arrivals rate holds steady

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The local tourism industry enjoyed relatively satisfactory arrivals last month, when the number of visitors equaled that of the same month last year.

The Northern Marianas received attracted 38,119 in January 2008, a minimal growth from 38,047 in January 2007.

Marianas Visitors Authority said this was the third consecutive month that tourist arrivals were up compared to the same months last year.

For the first time in many months, Japanese arrivals did not experience a double-digit decline. Instead, the Japan market posted a 6-percent decline in arrivals, with 20,078 Japanese visitors coming to the islands. Last year, the CNMI received 21,302 visitors from Japan.

MVA attributed the increase to the resumption of the Osaka-Saipan flights by Northwest Airlines. The service increased the number of airline seats out of Japan, allowing more Japanese visitors the opportunity to come to the Northern Marianas.

Moreover, five charter flights brought Japanese travelers into the CNMI during the yearend. Traditionally, the holiday period is popular for travel, especially to short-haul destinations.

"Although our Japanese arrival numbers did not exceed January 2007, we are very pleased to see them decline to the single digits," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "Japan continues to be our number one source market and we are hopeful that, with the resumption of the Osaka flight, we will get us back to arrival numbers that we enjoyed when the Osaka flight was in place before."

The fast expanding Korea market continued its double-digit growth last month. A total of 11,227 people traveled from Korea in January 2008. This represents a 13-percent increase from 9,953 in January 2007.

The continued promotions in Korea combined with the number of seats available on Asiana Airlines has allowed this market to grow consistently, MVA said.

January is also proving to be a popular season for Russians traveling to the CNMI. MVA said the CNMI has been getting the largest arrivals from Russia in the first month of the year. Last month, 711 Russians visited the CNMI, up from 498 in the same month last year. The CNMI is putting much effort into developing the Russian market. Russian guests stay an average of 12 days while in the CNMI.

Defunct garment firm's checks were stolen, forged, and cashed

Police have discovered that many checks stolen from the defunct garment manufacturer Neo Fashion Inc. were forged and cashed at many stores and poker arcades on Saipan.

On Saturday, police arrested ex-convict John Vincent Namauleg, who was allegedly among those responsible for forging and cashing the stolen Neo Fashion checks.

The 35-year-old Namauleg was charged with theft. At a hearing yesterday, Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman imposed a $50,000 cash bail for his temporary release.

A detective stated in the report Namauleg used a stolen identification card belonging to one Norman T. Manglona in cashing the checks.

The detective said they discovered Namauleg's identity when he attempted to cash a Neo Fashion check at the Bank of Saipan on Jan. 23, 2008.

A customer allegedly approached a teller and handed a Neo Fashion check for $500.

The teller noticed something unusual with the check because it was paid to cash and that the signature was very plain.

When the teller asked the customer to wait so she could verify the check, the customer sat for a while then left, leaving behind the check and the social security card of Norman T. Manglona. A bank official called police.

When a police investigator on Jan. 31, 2008 showed the teller the driver's license of Norman Manglona, the teller said it was not the person who tried to cash the check.

When showed Namauleg's driver's license, the teller recognized the defendant.

The bank's operations manager discovered that, of 18 Neo Fashion checks that were received by the bank, 17 were paid to the order of Norman T. Manglona and one was paid to Roman Cabrera.

Neo Fashion was burglarized before, during which two computers and some checks were stolen.

Follow-up investigation showed that Namauleg also paid other persons to cash the checks at several stores and poker arcades. Police said some of these people admitted involvement in the cashing of checks.

As of yesterday, only Namauleg has been arrested.

Police said Namauleg pleaded guilty to theft and forgery in March 2006. His probation ended on Jan. 30, 2008. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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King-Hinds named to utilities commission

A former chairwoman of the Northern Marianas College board of regents has been nominated to serve on the Public Utilities Commission.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has appointed Kimberlyn King-Hinds to represent Tinian to the commission.

King-Hinds used to head the NMC Board of Regents. She resigned in June 2006 to pursue graduate studies at the University of Guam. She is now back in the Commonwealth.

Appointments to PUC require confirmation by both the Senate and House of Representatives.

The Fitial administration is still struggling to get a complete list of six nominees for the commission. The governor has submitted several names since the commission was formed by law in 2006.

Most of the nominations were withdrawn to avoid confirmation deadline to expire on them. Other nominees declined for health reasons. In the case of one appointee, her nominee was canceled after concern was raised about possible conflict of interest.

Existing law requires PUC approval of any adjustment to utility rates, including power rates. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

ERRATUM

In the Monday, Feb.11, 2008 edition of the paper, the article "Teacher rep post still unfulfilled," a line that read "She explained that teachers will not have an opportunity to be heard by the board" was meant to read, "She explained that teachers will still have an opportunity to be heard by the board." Our apologies.

EPA hosts Pacific Brownfields team meeting

HONOLULU—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Hawaii Department of Health are hosting a meeting of environmental officials from the Pacific Territories to improve Pacific Island environmental response programs.

Officials from Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of Northern Marianas, State of Hawaii, and U.S. EPA will lay the foundation for a Pacific Basin Brownfields Response Team.

The meeting began yesterday and will run through Feb. 13, 2008.

The goal is to build stronger and more effective programs to prevent and respond to chemical contamination on land and water. The team will allow for informational sharing and collaboration between the environmental officials working on brownfields response programs.

"The workshop will give Pacific Island environmental officials the opportunity to form a long-term collaborative working group to share their expertise and experience. As a result, we expect their response programs will become much more effective," said John McCarroll, manager for the EPA Pacific Southwest region's Pacific Islands office. "EPA is using its programs, authorities, and grants to enhance the islands' response programs. This will improve the environment of the Pacific Islands." ***(Newswire)***

TOO

From Page 1

ratio are:

- Kagman Elementary School at 25 students per teacher;
- San Vicente Elementary School at 24 students per teacher;
- Oleai Elementary School at 24 students per teacher;
- WSR Elementary School at 24 students per teacher;
- Koblerville Elementary School at 24 students per teacher;
- Garapan Elementary school at 23 students per teacher;
- Dandan Elementary School at 23 students per teacher;
- San Antonio Elementary School at 22 students per teacher; and
- Tanapag Elementary School at 22 students per teacher.

Two years ago, the U.S. average at the elementary school level was 17 students per teacher.

The schools with considerably good ratios, Thornburgh noted, are GTC Elementary school at 18 students per teacher; Sinapalo Elementary School at 18 per teacher, and Tinian Elementary School at 20 students per teacher.

At the secondary school level the BOE's approved maximum class size is 25 students per teacher. Secondary schools that exceed that ratio are:

- Kagman High School at 29 students per teacher;
- Saipan Southern High School at 27 students per teacher;
- Hopwood Junior High School at 26 students per teacher.

Marianas High School and Chacha Junior High School are at the 25-students-per-teacher ratio. Tinian Junior and High School is at the 17 students per teacher ratio, so is Rota Junior High School. Rota High School is at 21 students per teacher.

With a student population of 10,742 currently enrolled in CNMI public schools from Kindergarten to grade 12, the Public School System only has a total of 452 classroom teachers, excluding the reading resource teachers and special education teachers.

Currently operating on a $35.8 million budget, Thornburgh said that PSS is seeking a $42 million budget that would restore the 80-plus teacher reduction that was experienced across the past two school years.

JAPANESE

From Page 3

sional baseball player, having played in Japan for the Yomiuri (Tokyo) Giants and in the U.S. for the New York Mets.

"Due to his fame and reputation in Japan he is in demand for public appearances, conducting baseball clinics, advertising employer's business activities, all of which has resulted in his receiving various contracts from business entities in Japan to appear on their behalf, play baseball for them and promote products and businesses both in Japan and the Commonwealth," Cushnie said.

The lawyer said as a result of his injuries, Taniguchi incurred medical, hospital and rehabilitation expenses.

He said the baseball player has not been able to fulfill various contractual requirements, causing a loss of income and in some cases requiring the return of advance payments.

"The collapse of the deck and resulting injury to plaintiff was due to the failure of the defendant to properly construct, maintain and keep the area in good order and repair," Cushnie said.

In February 2007, the Mets introduced Taniguchi and Takashi Kashiwada, both pitchers with the Tokyo Yomiuri Giants, who were then training with the Mets in an educational exchange.

ANOTHER

From Page 1

when the incident happened.

The driver, Marbert V. Malabanan, 28, was not arrested.

Ogumoro said that, according to traffic investigators, Mamaril did not use a marked crosswalk to cross the highway.

"The weather was clear and the road surface was dry. This case is still under investigation," she said.

The DPS spokesperson said that, on Sunday at 8:17pm, police received a report of an auto-pedestrian crash near the Marianas Eye Institute along Beach Road, Garapan.

Ogumoro said preliminary investigation showed that a gray 2001 Kia Sephia four-door sedan driven by Malabanan was heading south along Beach Road.

Mamaril attempted to cross the highway from the southbound shoulder to the northbound shoulder. The car hit him on the southbound lane.

Medics responded and transported Mamaril to the Commonwealth Health Center for further treatment.

On Friday night, a 65-year-old man was killed when a pickup truck hit him as he was crossing Middle Road, Garapan. The driver was not arrested.

AETNA

From Page 1

services agreement with Aetna expired on that date. On Nov. 1, 2007, the GHLI program was privatized and awarded to Aetna, through the competitive bidding process.

The privatized program only covers all new claims arising from medical services rendered after Nov. 1. The CNMI government is now liable for all costs incurred before then.

But Aetna paid the clinics a total of $2.4 million in runoff claims, with the understanding that the firm will be reimbursed.

NMI Retirement Fund administrator Mark Aguon said that Aetna must be paid "as soon as humanly possible."

In an email to Aguon, Aetna client services manager Christian Baker said the company wanted the government to pay the full amount or a significant portion of it, with an agreed payment plan for the balance, by Feb. 1, 2008.

"If AGB does not receive either, our next course of action will be to terminate the fully insured plan," said Baker.

The NMI Retirement Fund recently urged government employees to monitor premium payments by their respective employers. They can lose their health care coverage if their agency-employer does not pay its share of medical premiums for three pay periods in a row.

"Please be aware that we are extremely sympathetic to your plight, but as your premiums now go director to the carrier [Aetna Global Benefits], the Government Group Health and Life Insurance has, for all intents and purposes, ceased to exist," Aguon said.

MESS

From Page 1

pat, and other Labor officials joined the governor in the news briefing.

Fitial said it took two years for his administration to clean up the mess left over from past administrations.

The governor said with the new computer system the LIIDS system has been upgraded for the first time since 2000.

"We have new equipment and new software. The system came online last week. We recognize the hard work put up in by Tom Torres (LIIDS computer specialist 3) to make this happen and the able assistance of Ron Smith (web master)," Fitial said.

With respect to the new website, Fitial said Smith also designed and implemented it.

"This is free for employers, free for prospective employees, and free for the general public. The website is a very efficient way for everyone to see what jobs are available," he said.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, San Nicolas said he has been waiting for this computer system project for a long time.

"Our main goal for the automation is to make it easier for all the employers to process their papers, their applications to Labor and Immigration through the automation system," San Nicolas said.

Hirsbein explained that under the new system, they automatically generate a voucher for a customer electronically, then the customer will be allowed to go down and pay for that voucher. The customer will then return and bring proof of payment.

"We enter the voucher, that application will then be taken down to LIIDS, it will be scanned into the computer system. That application will never come back here to Labor Processing," he said.

The Labor director said all of the papers found in the shelves at Processing will soon be gone.

"The application will be reviewed on the computer. Anyone of my staff can pull out the application out of the processing and review the applications, make deficiencies…" he said.

The approval, Hirshbein said, will be sent out electronically or the deficiency will be sent out by e-mails if the employer has given them their e-mail address and they can correct the deficiencies.

"All of these are tied in with the Employment Services that allows you to post your JVA [Job Vacancy Announcement] online, electronically approve the JVA, and all those systems are tied together," he said.

Under the new system, Hirshbein pointed out, there will be less chance of misplacing documents and things will be reviewed efficiently.

Fitial said that Labor Employment Services director Alfred Pangelinan and Division of Employment Services supervisor Alice I. Concepcion and their staff are upgrading the services provided to citizen applicants. They are also helping run the new foreign worker transfer program.

On the backlog issue, Fitial cited that Labor had a backlog of over 11,000 applications and delays as long as a year in getting applications acted on by the department.

He said Labor director Hirshbein and his staff at Processing Section have cut the number to less than 100 pending cases from 2007.

That means, Fitial said, that Labor Processing will soon be operating totally under the new labor law.

"It should not take more than a month for applications to be completed by Labor Processing. This will reduce costs for businesses and help foreign workers have stable employment," he said.

The chief executive said that his administration inherited a backlog of nearly 5,000 cases.

"We finished almost all the cases from 2004 and prior years by March 2007 and we expect to finish all the 2005, 2006, and 2007 cases by June 2008," he said.

Fitial said when they get that done, the Labor Administrative Hearing Office will be operating totally under the new law.

Fitial said they also put up new operating procedures to take advantage of much-improved tools for all of the units at Labor that are provided under the new law.

As for Kaipat's appointment, the governor said that, as author of Public Law 15-108 or the new labor reform law, the former congresswoman spent more than a year in getting it drafted in a way that took into account the input from all parts of the community, including new provisions for foreign workers.

Fitial said Kaipat will be in charge of community outreach to be sure everyone understands the much-improved structure of the local citizen worker-preference and the guest worker program.

The governor commended the people who work at Labor and the management team "for what they have done."

"We set performance benchmarks, and they stepped up and got the job done," Fitial added.

Admin nixes directing CIP funds to CUC

The Fitial administration has rejected a suggestion by CNMI Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio to use all of the CNMI's unspent CIP funds on a new power plant.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said the Commonwealth cannot simply abandon existing capital improvement projects and funnel all funds to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

"It's all political posturing," Reyes said. "Those CIP funds are obligated. And we cannot just cancel the closure of the Puerto Rico dump and other projects."

Tenorio said yesterday that the CNMI will get nowhere with requests for federal funds to fix its power crisis as long as it has tens of millions of unspent CIP funds.

"To address these problems we will need to reprogram existing 702 CIP funds, and I believe that we can easily convince the Department of Interior that it is justified for a major upgrade at CUC," stated Tenorio.

Tenorio said the governor should ask the Department of the Interior for consent on reprogramming the funds.

"We cannot afford to allow tens of millions of CIP dollars lay fallow while our people struggle with rolling power outages, damaged electrical appliances, and worry how they are going to pay their bills," he said.

As of Jan. 24, 2008, the Northern Marianas had a backlog of CIP funds amounting to $57.4 million. This includes money for the Puerto Rico dump closure, water infrastructure, and wastewater treatment projects.

By U.S. law, Rota and Tinian should each receive at least one-eighth of the 702 funds allocated to the Commonwealth, so Saipan cannot utilize the entire amount. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

'Pregnant women are first priority for WIC'

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Health's Women, Infants, and Children program have placed pregnant women on their priority list in terms of attending to them.

"Pregnant women are our first priority and then we go down the waiting list in terms of when they contacted us to request for WIC services. This can be calling in or coming in to put your name and information onto the waiting list," WIC nutritionist Erin Angela Camacho said.

She explained that the reason why pregnant women are a priority is because the program has a short amount of time to help a pregnant woman and her unborn child nutritionally in hopes of creating a better health for the two.

"A great example would be a pregnant woman who was not getting enough folic acid in her diet as well not going in for a prenatal check up. We can significantly help this woman reduce the risk of her child having birth defects with the supplemental foods we give, in this case orange juice, folic acid, nutrition education on eating while pregnant, and referring her to the women's clinic to get a prenatal check up," Camacho said.

There are currently 1,200 families in the CNMI WIC's waiting list.

"What we do is call you in for an appointment and we want to make sure that we see you as soon as possible," Camacho said.

There are currently only four nutrition assistants on staff at the CNMI WIC. It takes about an hour to fully assess its new clients.

"We don't have enough hours in a day, nor do we have enough manpower but we're trying our best," Camacho said.

WIC provides nutrition education on Thursdays for those who are already in the program after the initial certification. This automatically takes one day out of the week to see clients.

In addition to placing pregnant women on its priority list and its nutrition education, WIC also prioritizes those who were already in the program but have expired.

"We want to make sure that we keep the people we already have," said Camacho.

It took WIC about five months to go through the waiting list. "We just follow what we're supposed to do with the best of our abilities," Camacho said.

WIC apologizes if the program has caused any inconvenience to anyone who has been placed on its waiting for a considerably long time.

With the growing number of pregnant women in the CNMI, non-pregnant women are being bumped down the waiting list.

Local group seeks Justice probe

The CNMI Taotao Tano Association has submitted a complaint with the Department of Justice, asking it to investigate the activities of several federal officials whom it accuses of engaging in activities designed to fast-track the federal takeover of local immigration.

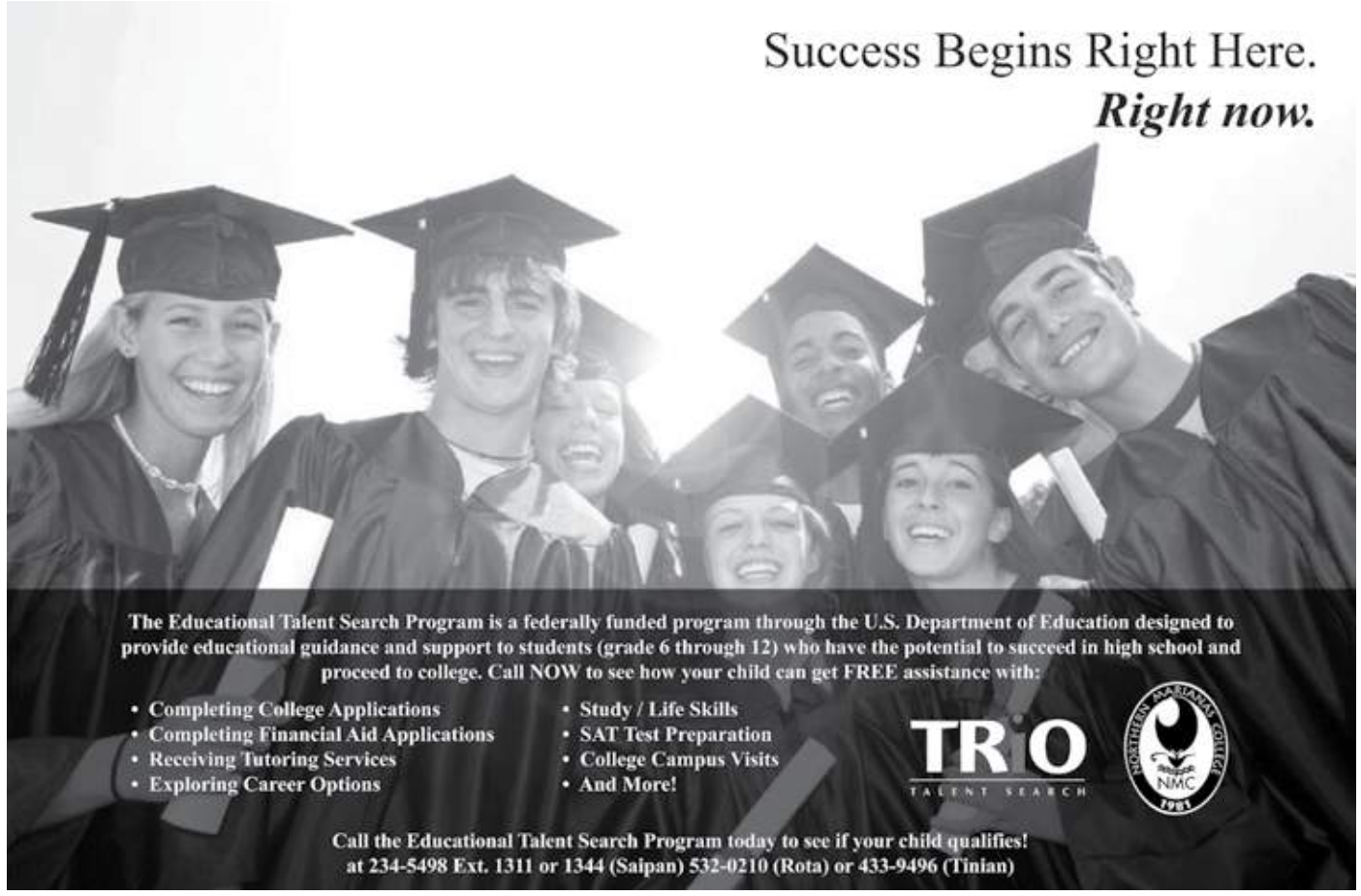
The group wants the department to investigate former deputy assistant secretary for the Interior David Cohen, U.S. Senate staffer Allan Stayman, Federal Ombudsman Jim Benedetto and Insular Affairs' field representative Jeff Schorr "for their involvement in the coercion of foreign advocacy organizations in [the CNMI] to enhance a fast-tracked federal control of our local Immigration system by way of protest, vigils, signature drives and a Unity March."

The group said that further investigations are warranted concerning the involvement of Stayman and Cohen with human rights advocate Wendy Doromal, Catholic Social Services, Karidat and Guma Esperanza.

The group expressed belief that these named individuals and groups coerced witnesses under the protection of NMI's Guma Esperanza into giving testimony that would enhance federal takeover.

The group also cited the Karidat Catholic Social Services, saying that Bishop Thomas Camacho "is also a witness on record for the Department of Interior."

"Sister Stella Mangona, RGS of Karidat, was one of the nuns who testified before the subcommittee in Washington against the NMI," said Greg Cruz, Taotao Tano president. ***(PR)***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Brennan: Recovery may come in mid-2009

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The general manager of the CNMI's top automobile dealership expects the local economy to pick up in July or August of next year.

Microl Corp. general manager Douglas Brennan, whose company captured 41.79 percent of the market last month, said that while sales of vehicles have remained stagnant the past couple of years, the light at the end of the long dark tunnel may come by mid-2009.

"Last month's sales were dead on for our 2007 monthly average. The market is still down considerably. The market is down so low right it's got to be near the bottom. What I'm counting on right now is recovery will come sometime in July or August 2009," he said in a telephone interview with the *Saipan Tribune* last week.

And the stimulus for the start of recovery, Brennan said, is the expected buildup of U.S. forces in the CNMI's next-door neighbor, the U.S. territory of Guam.

"They're still in the environmental impact study of that program. Announcements should come in mid-2009 as to exactly what type of operation would be going on for the Marianas," he said. "By that time, pretty much the final plans for the military movement in Guam would be in place."

Brennan said the CNMI could benefit from the business activity spurred by the buildup.

"The construction plan for that move is 2010-2014… they'll b quite a bit of economic activity in Guam and we hope in the [Northern] Marianas as well," he said.

The Microl general manager said the CNMI's automobile dealerships hope to get some business from military personnel and their families looking north to relax and take a short vacation.

"Anytime you have more people coming—such as tourists—they need to be moved around. Transportation is one of the basic needs nowadays. These guys will not be walking around the island. They have to be transported somehow, correct? Obviously, these guys will like to R&R after seeing Guam two or three times and they would like to come to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota," he said.

Brennan also said they may also benefit from the additional activity tourists bring to the CNMI.

"If these guys start coming they need to go to restaurants and stay in hotels. They're going to rent cars or the restaurants would be operating shuttle services for them. As the business picks up, owners would spend for cars, and so do their employees," he said.

Brennan added there is always a ripple effect in the economy and "the transportation industry is always the first to get hit or benefit."

Back to the present, Brennan said poor new car sales have resulted in Microl cutting operating costs—and this has meant letting go of some employees.

"We're the same as every company. Everyone I've talked to is working off of attrition or reduction of force and we're the same. The bottom line is a business has to survive. We're not like the government and can't work on a deficit."

One bright spot resulting from people not buying new cars, according to Brennan, is that Microl's parts and services division has been thriving lately.

"People who have vehicles are keeping them in shape right now. [And as a result we're more] profitable in the parts and service business right now. We're more profitable as ever in the parts and service side. It's profitable and I'm happy," he said.

Toyota leads vehicle sales in January

Toyota continues to be No. 1 selling vehicle in the CNMI, as local automobile dealership Microl Corp. sold 22 units of Japanese automaker in January 2008.

That represents 32.84 percent of the islands' automobile market, but also was a 15.38-percent drop from the 26 Toyota units that were driven off by customers from Microl's showroom and parking lot in January 2007.

Broken down, Toyota sold eight cars, three trucks, two vans, and nine sport utility vehicles last month.

Triple J Motors' Hyundai was a far second in vehicle sales in the first month of 2008, as customers snapped up seven units of the Korean automaker, a 16.67-percent increase from the six sold in the same period last year. Hyundai captured 10.45 percent of the market last month after disposing of one car and six SUVs.

Three carmakers—Nissan, Mazda, and Chevrolet—each sold six units last month, which apiece represents 8.96 percent of the market.

The sales of Nissan, sold by Joeten Motors, is actually a 7.35-percent increase from the five units it sold in January 2007, while Triple J's Mazda saw a 100-percent hike in its sales from the three units its sold in the same period last year.

Microl's Chevrolet sale, meanwhile, was also a 100-percent improvement from the three units it sold in January 2007.

Nissan sold three cars, two trucks, and one SUV, while Mazda sold four cars, one van, and one SUV. Six Chevrolet vans, meanwhile, were bought by customers.

Honda, Mitsubishi, Kia, and Ford round out the rankings in terms of auto sales last month with five, four, three, and two units sold, respectively, last month. Honda, Kia, and Ford are sold by Joeten Motors, while Triple J sells Mitsubishi.

Six school bus were also sold by Triple J last month, adding to CADA's January totals of 67 units sold, which is one off the 68 sold in January 2007. ***(Mark Rabago)***

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marriage Encounter couples pose with, seated from left, Mt. Carmel Cathedral rector Ryan Jimenez, Chalan Kanoa Diocese Bishop Thomas Camacho, Lt. Gov. Tim Villagomez, and his wife Margaret K. Villagomez after the signing of the World Marriage Day proclamation on Feb. 6, 2008. Villagomez signed the proclamation. World Marriage Day itself will be celebrated on Feb. 10, 2008. World Marriage Day honors the husband and wife as head of the family, the basic unit of society. It salutes the beauty of their faithfulness, sacrifice and joy in daily married life. The theme for World Marriage Day has been permanently adopted as "Love One Another." This is the 22nd year World Marriage Day has been organized and celebrated in the CNMI under the auspices of the Catholic Church and World Marriage Encounter, Inc.

Rotary celebrates 40 years Saturday

The Rotary Club of Saipan is inviting all past Rotarians and citizens of the year to participate in their 40th year anniversary to take place on Feb. 16. The club will highlight "40 years of service" at the banquet.

The event will take place at Fiesta Resort in the Hibiscus Hall starting at 6pm. The cost is $50 and includes dinner and entertainment. The dinner will be a formal gala dinner.

Two round trip tickets donated by Continental Micronesia will be raffled off at the event along with several other prizes.

The Rotary Club of Saipan was founded in February 1966 with David M Sablan as their president. The only other founding member to still participate in the weekly meetings is Pedro JL Igitol.

Rotary is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations, and helps build goodwill and peace in the world. Approximately 1.2 million Rotarians belong to more than 32,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas.

Questions can be addressed to Rotarian Irene Tantiando at 322-2222 or Irene@bccnmi.com. ***(PR)***

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- Above discounts good for up to 6 persons (including VIP cardholder)

Charter flights increase visitors to CNMI

With a couple of charter flights just leaving the CNMI, more are scheduled to come in during the month of February. Twelve charter flights will be arriving including four from China, four from Japan and four from Korea.

The China charters will arrive from Guanzhou and Beijing while the Japan charters will come from Sapporo, Sendai and Toyama. The Korean charter flights will all originate out of Incheon.

With February being a low travel season into the CNMI historically, these charters were exciting news. The charters are expected to bring approximately 2,400 visitors to the islands.

The Marianas Visitors Authority, in conjunction with its industry partners, have made incredible efforts to secure these flights. With the lack of an appropriate amount of regular air service into the CNMI, the charter flights help the tourism industry by providing additional guest to the islands. The charter flights also give the travel agents confidence in selling the charter packages during this time period.

"We would like to extend our thanks to our industry partners who have helped make these charter flights a reality," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "Having an additional 2,400 guests in the CNMI in February will certainly help our ailing tourism industry." ***(MVA)***

2 police checkpoints set this week

The Department of Public Safety Traffic Section will be conducting checkpoints on two separate days this week.

The first one, a seatbelt and child restraint checkpoint, will be held today, Feb. 12, 2008.

The first setup will be on Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai by Chong's Corp. This operation will start around 9am and will end at about 10:15am. The second set up will be on Beach Road Chalan LauLau by the late Dr. Benisto Kaipat's residence. It will start at about 3pm and will end around 4:15pm.

The second, a DUI sobriety checkpoint, will be held Feb. 16, 2008, Saturday.

The first setup will be on Beach Road Chalan Kanoa in front of Carmen Safeway Supermarket. This will start at about 9pm and will end around 10:15pm. The second setup will be on Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan LauLau in front of Trans-America Corp. This will start around 11:30pm and will end at about 12:45am.

Each checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour 15 minutes) at each location.

This activity is part of the department's efforts to deter, detect and apprehend impaired drivers and ensure that all vehicle occupants are protected.

In addition, Traffic officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser enforcement.

For more information, contact Sgt. Anthony Macaranas at 664-9084/5. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Soil erosion seminar at NMC tomorrow

The Northern Marianas College- Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Services is inviting all farmers, students, and the community to participate in a seminar on Watershed Management and Soil Erosion. The presenter is Prof. M. Golabi of the University of Guam.

The seminar will be held tomorrow, Feb. 13, 2008, at the CREES conference room, from 3:30pm to 4:30pm.

For more information, contact NMC-CREES at 234-5498 Ext. 1725. ***(NMC)***

Training for water operators

The Division of Environmental Quality has scheduled continuing education training for all certified water treatment and distribution operators.

The training is set for Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2008, from 8am until 12pm at the Aqua Resort Club.

In addition to the main topic, there will be short presentations about DEQ's new computer-based water operator testing.

Questions about the training should be directed to Jose Kapait, manager for the Safe Drinking Water Program at DEQ. His phone number is 664-8500 or 664-8501. ***(DEQ)***

LibDay booth concessions

The 2008 Liberation Day Committee is now accepting applications for the 2008 Liberation Day Carnival Grounds Booth Concessions. Interested individuals and/or firms may pick up an application at the Office of the Mayor of Saipan in the Afetnas Square in San Antonio.

As the number of booths will be limited, booths will be issued on a first-come, first-serve basis.

For more information, contact Concessions Committee chair Piding Tenorio at 287-8091. Deadline for submission of concession application is April 30, 2008 at the Saipan Mayor's Office.

Autism training for parents

There will be an autism training for parents on Saturday, Feb. 16, 2008, at the Aqua Resort Club.

The training will cover two concurrent sessions: "Helping Parents Increase Language Skills at Home" to be presented by Sheila Magee, M.S., and "Vocational and Transitional Challenges for Children with Autism" to be presented by Joel Arick, Ph.D.

Registration starts at 8:30am; sessions begin at 9am and will last until 12pm. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp

INVITATION TO BID
PACIFIC GARDENIA HOTEL SUNSET BAR & GRILL

The Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) is soliciting bids for the sale of the PACIFIC GARDENIA HOTEL SUNSET BAR & GRILL. Sale includes CDA's interest in the following sites:

• Site 1	-	Lot 008 H 33	-	1,017 sqm	Sunset Bar & Grill
• Site 2	-	Lot 008 H 36	-	479 sqm	Residential Home
• Site 3	-	Lot 008 H 37	-	780 sqm	Hotel
• Site 4	-	Lot 008 H 29	-	950 sqm	Parking north of hotel (leasehold interest)
• Site 5	-	Lot 008 H 31	-	1,413 sqm	Former Seoul Rest.(subject to lease)

LOTS ARE FREE OF CNMI TAX LIENS AND REDEMPTION PERIOD, BUT TITLE IS NOT OTHERWISE WARRANTED.

The sale shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:
1. Minimum bid - $1,000,000.00.
2. Sale will be granted to the highest bidder.
3. PGH Lots are being sold as a package.
4. PGH Lots are being sold at its current condition, **"AS IS"**.
5. PGH Lots are being sold **"WITHOUT WARRANTY"** of any type.
6. CDA reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale from time to time.

Interested party or person may contact Oscar C. Camacho, Acting Chief Executive Officer (ACEO) at 234-6245 or 234-7145 for further information. Failure to inspect the property will not constitute grounds for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer. All sales are final.

A deposit of 10% of the total price bid must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.

Interested party or person is asked to submit their bid at the CDA Saipan Office in a sealed envelop identified as "Pacific Gardenia Hotel Bid" addressed to Mr. Oscar C. Camacho, ACEO. Deadline to submit bid is **10:00 a.m. Wednesday, March 12, 2008.**

Dated this 12th day of February 2008.

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

/s/ Oscar C. Camacho
Acting Chief Executive Officer

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ABE Insular Area Administrators from Guam, American Samoa, Palau and the CNMI pose with NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, second from right, during the group's recent leadership meeting at the college.

NMC hosts adult education summit

To underscore the value of collaborative training and resource sharing, the Northern Marianas College recently hosted the first Adult Basic Education Regional Administrators Leadership Meeting and Training.

The summit, organized and sponsored by NMC's ABE Program, intended to increase and enhance the skills of ABE program administrators from Guam, American Samoa, the Republic of Palau, and the CNMI.

"In today's fast-paced environment, our capacity to provide the best possible service to our adult learners depends heavily on our ability to collaborate with others with diverse experiences, backgrounds, and skills," said Tee Abraham, Dean of Community Programs and Services.

One of the discussion items that was introduced as recommended by ABE insular area administrators included grants management, which was presented by David Michael Tate, program administrator of the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges Office of Adult Basic Education.

Other topics, facilitated by a host of other NMC professionals, included federal grant compliance management, raising disability awareness, resiliency, marketing, and developing collaborative partnerships with other stakeholders.

In addition to ABE administrators, representatives from the Ayuda Network, the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, the Workforce Investment Agency, the San Antonio Man Hoben Center, the Department of Corrections, the Public School System Advance Development Institute as well as members from the NMC communities of Rota, Tinian, and Saipan also participated in the conference.

"We were very pleased with the turnout of the event," Abraham said. "We are especially glad that representatives from other key CNMI agencies were able to attend and share their wisdom while simultaneously learning about how to improve and augment their services."

One of the highlights of the meeting was the participants' recognition of Ross Manglona, who is a graduate of the NMC ABE program and the current director of the NMC Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service. Manglona served as the event's keynote speaker and gave an emotional testimonial about how the ABE Program provided him with a second chance to finish his high school education and put him on a journey to pursue higher education that culminated in a master's degree.

The summit, which occurred over a three-day period beginning Jan. 14, was funded by an ABE Insular Grant. The grant is used for professional development, technical assistance, and other staff development needs. ***(NMC)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONGRATULATIONS

Rep. Jose Reyes, proprietor of Joe's Bar and Grill along Beach Road, Garapan, congratulates Julie Camacho, who won for herself a Yamaha Cruiser V Star Classic in the "Miller Lite, It's Your Call, Choose Your bike" promotion on Jan. 11, 2008. The final drawing was held at Joe's Bar and Grill. There were seven semifinalist vying for the bike. Camacho was the 7th finalist and was picked at Joe's Bar and Grill.

NMI Chapter in top 10 percent of Red Cross units nationwide

The NMI Chapter of the American Red Cross has achieved a "Highly Performing" ranking based on Red Cross Chapter performance standards, putting it among the top 10 percent of Red Cross chapters all over the United States.

The NMI Chapter was informed of this achievement by the National Red Cross in Washington D.C.

The 36 evaluation standards measure achievements in governance, financial strength and stability, program services, human resources, business practices and corporate citizenship.

"We are pleased to have met this very high standard," said NMI executive director. John Hirsh, "Our board of director's and volunteers have made this possible through their dedication and spirit of helping those in need."

Over 750 Chapters nationwide were evaluated by these standards and only 70 Chapters reached the "Highly Performing" level. There will be a special recognition ceremony at the Red Cross National convention in March to recognize those Chapters that are operating at the highest level of performance.

The NMI Chapter is celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2008. For more information about the NMI Chapter and how you can volunteer, call the office at 234-3459. ***(ARC)***

DDESS donates PCs to Guam public schools

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Department of Defense Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools will donate 414 computers to the Guam Public School System tomorrow, Feb. 13.

The donation will take place at Guam High School, which is located on the U.S. Naval Hospital Guam installation in Agana Heights.

The computers, along with monitors and keyboards, were previously used at the various DDESS schools on island.

First Lady Joann Camacho, Mike Diekmann, DDESS Guam District superintendent, and Luis Reyes, GPSS superintendent, are expected to be in attendance. ***(USN)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

February 12, 2001

Small islands may be used as entry point by terrorists . FAA security liaison officer cites need to install tighter security measures

Small islands like the Northern Marianas and Guam can be used by international terrorists as transit point to launch destructive activities in major Asian countries, as well as in Australia and the mainland United States. Federal Aviation Administration Security Liaison Officer Donald A. Slechta disclosed that although the Pacific Region is less likely to be the target of international terrorists, it can be the hopping point of agitators bound for other countries.

Government expenditures climb 9%

Following an increase in the amount of taxes and fees collected by the CNMI government in the third quarter of the financial year 2000, its expenditures for same period rose by nine percent to $57 million from the previous quarter's $52.3 million. A report from the Department of Commerce which quotes official figures from the finance department disclosed overall amount of taxes and fees collected in the same period climbed by near-nine percent to $55.53 million from $51 million in the second quarter of FY2000.

SEDC launches tourist safety initiative

The CNMI Strategic Economic Development Council has announced the launching of a private sector initiative aimed at enhancing the safety of island visitors, as well as the areas and businesses they frequent. The non-profit organization known as SAFE -- Safe and Friendly Environment -- will raise money for projects to address tourist safety concerns on island. Participation will be open to all interested businesses once the group is formally incorporated.

February 12, 2002

Mostly 'old faces' in Babauta Cabinet

Gov. Juan N. Babauta yesterday announced a slew of new appointments and nominees to his official family, including four Cabinet-level nominees and two special assistants.

New tax breaks luring new investors to NMI

The Commonwealth Development Authority is studying the application of six multi-million companies seeking to avail tax breaks under the Commonwealth's Qualifying Certificate Program. CDA Executive Director MaryLou S. Ada said that, aside from the six investors, a good number of businesses have also inquired about the newly implemented investment incentive program.

WMU delegation visits CNMI

A six-member delegation from the Western Michigan University arrived on Saipan to conduct this week needs assessment sessions envisioned to improve a broad range of CNMI programs and services, especially in the areas of health, human resources and education. Former CNMI resident Mozhdeh Bruss, now an assistant professor at the WMU, spearheaded efforts to bring the delegation to the CNMI, in the hopes of assisting the Northern Marianas achieve further growth in the provision of essential community services.

February 12, 2003

Extreme rate increases seen in privatizing CUC

A highly-detailed feasibility study on the privatization of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.-which has existed since 1997-shows that the concept is financially feasible but may result in extreme utility rate hikes if full cost is to be recovered. CUC executive director Lorraine A. Babauta clarified, though, that the 1997 study was never implemented but serves as the CUC's guide in its operations. She added that there is a need for a new study, given the changes since 1997.

Palacios intent on lowering sin taxes

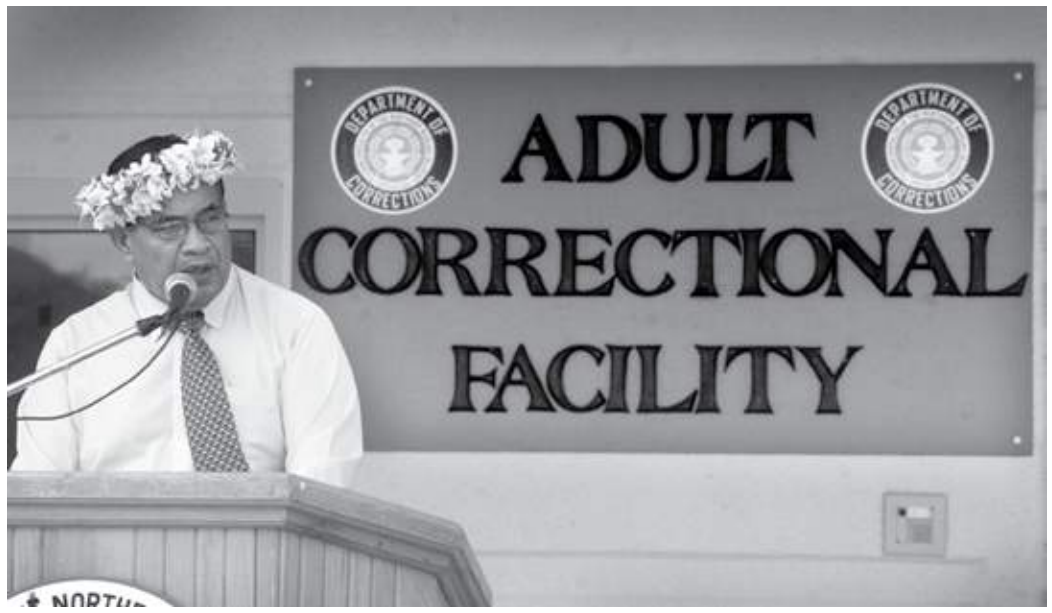
House Rep. Herman Palacios is set to move forward with the proposal to lower sin taxes by 50 percent from its current rate, skeptical over the belief that the tax increases on alcohol and tobacco products are remedies to the CNMI's smoking or alcohol-related diseases. "When I was talking to the author of this law, I made it clear that elevating the tax on cigarettes will not help people avoid getting cancer from it. If that's what you want to happen, then you should ban cigarettes altogether," Palacios told reporters yesterday.

Island Snapshots

MCDONALD'S DONATION

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

McDonald's owner Joe C. Ayuyu, left, donates $500 for the players of the Team McDonald's in the Saipan Baseball Little League. He is shown here handing the check to Patrick Tenorio, team coach of Team McDonald's. The donation will be used for the team's entrance fee plus their uniforms. McDonald's has been sponsoring the team since 2003.



OPENING CEREMONY

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial delivers his remarks during the ribbon cutting for the new correctional facility, officially called the Vicente Taman Seman Memorial Building in Susupe Saturday morning.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Department of Corrections and Police officers march during the opening ceremony for the state-of-the-art adult prison facility Saturday morning.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

DC VISIT

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela and his Chief of Administration, Robert A. Guerrero, during their courtesy visit to the Office of the Resident Representative in Washington, DC. Both were in the area attending the U.S. Mayor's Winter Conference.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LUNAR NEW YEAR

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Michael von Siebenthal picks up the red scroll from the lion's head during the lion dance presentation at the lobby of Hyatt Regency Thursday in celebration of the Lunar New Year or Spring Festival, which marks the first day of the Chinese year 4706, "The Year of the Rat". The dance is a symbolic ritual to usher in the Lunar New Year as well as to bring good luck and drive out bad spirits from the premises.

NEWS BRIEFING

Northern Marianas College president Carmen Fernandez answers a question from the media while NMC Board of Regents acting chair Charles V. Cepeda listens during Friday's press conference regarding the show-cause order issued by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges inside the BOR conference room.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

SISTER CITIES ACCORD

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela and Ahmedabad Mayor Amit Shah hand over copies of the signed Sister Cities Agreement between the City of Ahmedabad, India and Saipan, CNMI to Universal Company's Dinesh Kumar Patel and event coordinator Tony Glad during the historic signing ceremony at the Saipan World Resort Saturday night.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela hands over a token of appreciation to Ahmedabad Mayor Amit Shah during the historic Sister Cities Agreement signing ceremony at the Saipan World Resort Saturday night.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

ROADBLOCK

Landowner Ben Cabrera assists a bulldozer in unloading big block of rocks to close the private street heading toward Gualo Rai Youth Center and Green Hills hotel along Historia Pl in Gualo Rai Friday afternoon.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

SAIPAN ZOO DONATION

A pair of Scarlet macaws (Ara macao) curiously look at the camera while Palms Resort Saipan senior sales promotion manager Katsuhito Yamane feeds a parrot during the turnover of an array of exotic birds to the Saipan Zoo from Palms Resort Saipan Tuesday afternoon.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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John Pangelinan PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

All heart at the helm

One of his colleagues called him "John Publisher" for insisting that he be called by his initials, JP. But if Metropolis had a brusque publisher to Clark Kent, JP was the quintessential mild-mannered manager to many in the crew that produced this daily paper, the *Saipan Tribune.*

JP had a leadership style that was assertive without being obtrusive, accomplished without being showy. He was a quiet adherent to Harry S. Truman's dictum: *You can accomplish anything in life, provided that you do not mind who gets the credit.*

Jim Collins of the *Built to Last* fame followed this defining management study of the 90s with another bestseller titled, *Good to Great*. Collins and his staff collected data that showed how great companies triumphed over time. Collins' team analyzed 28 companies to determine what made good companies take the leap into greatness.

Pangelinan

Their findings ran against the grain of contemporary thinking. They discovered that the type of leadership required for turning a good company into a great one is a leader who is self-effacing, quiet, reserved, and even shy. Paradoxically, this leader is a blend of personal humility and professional will. It does not fit the stereotype of the high-profile leader with big personality who makes headlines and becomes a celebrity.

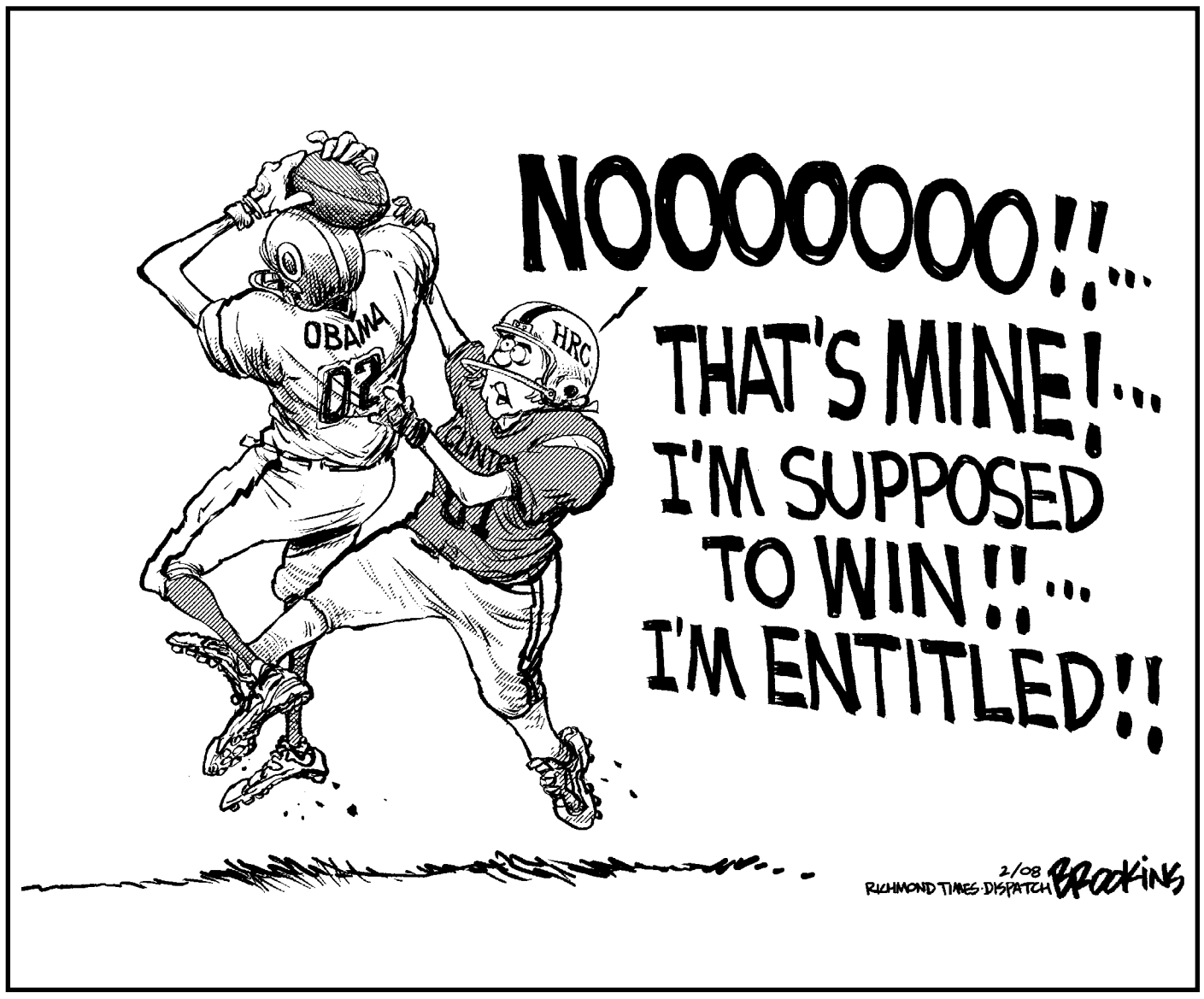
JP belonged to the select group of leaders who understand that leadership is not about being chosen, designated, assigned, specified, or even elected. Being a leader in today's marketplace of global competition is something one chooses to be. Great companies choose the right people first before they determine what they will do.

Again, great leaders go the route of Harry S. Truman where they understand that indeed, "the buck stops here." They are not just employees out to do a job, or fanatics who get emotional income from the career, or professionals who relish the discipline and the art of efficiency and effectivity. More than this, their vocation owns to 100 percent engagement in the enterprise, where the whole becomes inextricably wedded to the leader's selfhood.

Without being popularly known, JP managed to embody with care and compassion the character and nature of this daily paper. Is the company he served great? That will be the judgment of time. Was JP a great leader? In Collins' definition, there is no doubt.

We honor today the memory of John Pangelinan, this paper's famous JP. He was respected even in his quietude. He is remembered by colleagues, subordinates, and consumers as being plainly just all heart, and for that, he will be sorely missed. The respect on his person in time will wane, but the style and content of his leadership will forever be loved. It will also bear fruit.

And it does come to pass, JP's journey journeys on.



Farewell to a beloved boss

"[I was] deeply saddened by the news that "JP" has passed on. It brought tears to my eyes and made my heart heavy. He was one of a kind and a great friend; you'd never find a more humble and down to earth man despite all his connections. He once told me he used to "baby sit" [redacted] but yet you never got the impression of all this, at least when I was around him and joking with him. Of course I miss all the people on Saipan but to know he won't be there when I come back to visit is a great loss to me. My prayers are with him and I know he's in a better place now and feeling no pain. I'll miss his smiling face and great personality even more now that he's gone."

—Thom Welch
Yasothon Province, Thailand

"I was saddened to learn of John's passing. He was a fine man and a true gentleman in the classic sense. A great loss. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him."

—William Stewart
Charleston, West Virginia

"A great man has left us: John Pangelinan, whose steady hand guided the Tribune*'s helm for about six years. "JP" was more than a publisher; he was a leader and a gentleman with a dynamic mix of integrity, competence, and charm. Those of us who worked for him felt blessed to know him, and the entire community benefited from his service and efforts. Yes, heaven got the man, but we keep, and treasure, the blessings he brought us.*

—Ed Stephens
Saipan Tribune columnist

The *Saipan Tribune* joins the rest of the community today to bid farewell to our beloved publisher, the late JP Pangelinan, who passed away Tuesday last week after a brave battle with cancer.

If there is one word to describe JP, that would be it: Brave. From the way he forged on in the face of the disease, to the strength he displayed even as the cancer ravaged his body, JP has never been one to solicit sympathy, let alone pity. As his friends and relatives would attest, JP was not one to broadcast his troubles, and the bravery he showed as he fought this private battle with cancer was singularly JP, a mark of how he prefers not to inconvenience other people with his personal burdens.

His passing has left us bereft, but we take comfort from the thought that he is now in a better place, free from pain and suffering. It is we who must find some solace and consolation in the fond memories that we will always have of him, of the way he always bugged us about the quality of our stories, of the many grand plans

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
Editor

Jayvee Vallejera is the editor of the Saipan Tribune*. Comments? E-mail him at editor@saipantribune.com.*

he had for the paper, of how he always looked out for the well-being of his staff. JP detested losing people but he was not one to stop you if you're moving to a better job or a brighter future. He always made sure that people leaving the company would be landing on their feet—such was his regard and concern for his people.

He was always one who couldn't say no to friends, which must have placed him in some very uncomfortable situations, being the publisher of the paper. By nature, the position is not an easy one. It is a balancing act that requires astute political skills, the tact of a diplomat, and the hard-nosed aggression of a businessman. Yet JP trod that path with nary a misstep. From friends asking for free ad space or discounts, to politicians hectoring him for the paper's coverage or news treatment, JP's amiable nature must have made him seem like a pushover yet that wasn't the case at all. Knowing that he had to maintain the standards of the paper, he always fought to keep it independent and free from any pressure, nor did I get any instruction from him to go soft with anyone. He would be the first one to tell you that he has had no prior background in publishing but he was in fact a natural for the post, his competence and instinctive ability enabling him to find his footing with consummate ease. He helped build this paper to where it is now and he still had a lot of ideas on how to further improve the product.

For those who didn't know, JP was also a gadget freak: He loved electronic stuff and he was always showing off any new toy he had, whether it was an MP3 player, an iPod, a digital camera, or a brand new laptop. He, however, loved his children and his grandchildren more, with the result that his toys would inevitably end up in the possession of his grandkids.

A kind man, a generous man, a true gentleman, JP's compassionate spirit touched all those he met and he will forever be missed, his absence a sore spot in our hearts that will never go away. His loss leaves behind a less kinder world but we take comfort from the thought that we now have one more angel watching out for us in heaven.

Goodbye, JP. We will miss you.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Less is less

The real reason

Last week I complained about the static 'filler' commercials found on the local cable channel. In the interest of fairness, below you will find reprinted, an email I received from Mark Birmingham of MCV regarding the real reason they don't show commercials during the Super Bowl and many other live sports broadcasts.

Bob Coldeen and Jim Barry also rang in to let me know what is going on. Some of you may not know and some of you may already understand the reason.

As both Bob and Mark point out, without the AFN (Armed Forces Network) feed, even though restricted, we would not have live sports coverage at all so they, I and probably you should be happy to have what we have, elevator rap and all.

Anyway, here it is from the horse's mouth:

Hafa Adai Bruce,

The reason you do not see Super Bowl ads, or any other national ads for that matter, on AFN is because AFN does not show them. They substitute their own Military commercials (you may have seen the start of some inadvertently) and we are restricted from showing those commercials, so we must cover it up with our own ads (preferable because we make money) or "filler" (just some filler stuff, logos, and stuff). The filler was a static screen that said "Stay tuned for more Sports", but we wanted something with a little bit more movement. Our Graphic Artist is always looking for ideas, so if you have one let me know (Note: It cannot be camera video due to certain issues, but we can do graphic motion, which we do now.) The music is what is called "Music Bed" and is available for free. I cannot tell you how much trouble we can get into if we start putting Beyonce or Nickelback as the background. Unfortunately, Music Bed is basically elevator music.

I wish we would sell more advertising and cover up the graphics with ads, but you know how that is. Maybe when the economy improves a bit.

Mark

So there you have it. Notice that Mark calls for usable ideas so if you have one, give him a call at MCV headquarters.

■ ■ ■

Smaller spender

Back in the United States, the battle rages over who will be on the ballot in November shooting for the Presidency. Primaries erupt over the face of the country like a "wave" in a football arena—coming and going and leaving not much but a bunch of people sitting there after it passes. The end result of all that "waving," however, will be profound as from it comes the nominees with the only chance of ruling (no, running) the country for the next four or eight years. He, She, It will be a Republican or a Democrat. Third parties are not welcome at the table (except sometimes as spoilers). Third party candidates are basically ignored by the media and can't get a seat at the "open debates." Within that restricted framework of RepubliCrats will come the leader of the most powerful nation on the planet.

I read an article the other day that showed the projected dollar/spending effects attributed to each potential candidate should they be elected and should their respective agendas be put into place. The information is instructive:

New study: All candidates but one will increase government spending

Of all the Republican and Democratic candidates for president, only one is proposing to actually cut government spending. That one, not surprisingly, is libertarian Republican Ron Paul. The rest, Republicans and Democrats alike, are proposing to increase government spending by anywhere from several billion to hundreds of billions of dollars.

That's the startling conclusion of a comprehensive new study from the National Taxpayers Union Foundation (NTUF). NTUF is the research arm of the 362,000-member National Taxpayers Union, a nonpartisan citizen group founded in 1969 that works for lower taxes and tax reform. Their new study provides cost estimates, based on hard data, for more than 450 actual proposals by the presidential candidates.

The leading Republicans love to describe themselves as "fiscal conservatives" and they all pledge to cut back government. But that's all hot air, says NTUF. The truth is, all but Ron Paul are proposing an even bigger, even more bloated, even more intrusive federal government than we have today:

■ *John McCain's proposals would result in a $6.9 billion spending hike.*

■ *Mitt Romney's programs would result in a $19.5 billion spending hike.*

■ *Mike Huckabee's proposals would result in a $54.2 billion spending hike.*

As for the Democrats:

■ *Hillary Clinton's proposals would result in a $218.2 billion spending hike.*

■ *Barack Obama's proposals would result in a $287 billion spending hike.*

What about Ron Paul? The NTUF study notes that only Ron Paul is proposing to eliminate whole departments he considers wasteful, unnecessary and unconstitutional. Among them: the departments of Education, Commerce, Energy, Agriculture, and Homeland Security. He would also end "corporate welfare," or government handouts to business. He has proposed numerous other measures to reduce government spending as well.

Finally, his call for ending America's self-assumed role as policeman of the world would save trillions of dollars over time, as well as American lives.

Bottom line on Ron Paul, according to NTUF:

** Ron Paul's proposals would result in a $150 billion spending CUT.*

(Source: National Taxpayers Union Foundation study: www.ntu.org)

So what does it all mean to us, sitting out here in the western Pacific? Probably not much except that if you are wanting to see the federal government get smaller instead of bigger, and you are eligible to vote in the coming election, you might give some thought to researching Ron Paul as a candidate to see if his other platform stances are compatible with your voting philosophy.

■ ■ ■

Quote of the week: Anyone who is capable of getting themselves made President should on no account be allowed to do the job.

—Douglas Adams (1952 – 2001)

SOUR GRAPES

By BRUCE BATEMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman writes Sour Grapes when the moon is full and the mood strikes. Stay tuned for each exciting episode. "Yes, he is opinionated." Email: bbateman@pticom.com; Blog: http://saipanuvian.blogspot.com/

The week that was in America: draining

By TED ANTHONY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

There's a fortune-cookie-style proverb that sounds like a blessing but, legend says, is really a curse: "May you live in interesting times."

The saying is usually attributed to ancient China, but it is, by many indications, entirely American. Which makes it particularly suitable as we pause, on the weekend, to consider the past week—an extremely violent, chaotic, anguished and, yes, horrifyingly fascinating week in our 231-year-old republic.

Ugly things. Violent things. Elemental things. Epic things. The forces of nature and human anger unleashed in concentrated form across the land. Water and fire, gun and sky, bringing destruction, death and misery. And tears.

America's body count for the week from Feb. 2 to Saturday tops four score. Fifty-nine dead from the tornadoes in the South. Five dead after Edwin Rivera opened fire on his family and a SWAT officer in Los Angeles. Six killed in Kirkwood, Mo., when Charles Lee "Cookie" Thornton opened fire at a city council meeting and was slain by police. Five women herded into the back room of a suburban Chicago Lane Bryant store and gunned down by a man still at large.

You can't even fit it into a single paragraph. Here's more: Three dead in an Oregon plane crash, three dead in a Louisiana vocational college shooting, five dead and three missing in a Georgia sugar refinery explosion. An Ohio teacher stabbed in front of her grade-school students after her estranged husband walked into the classroom and pulled a knife. Across the state, hundreds of homes damaged in severe flooding. Hordes of motorists stranded on Wisconsin roads by snow.

And that doesn't count the wounded. Nor does it tally the dizzying ack-ack of nondestructive and non-tectonic events during the same one-week span.

Super Sunday (an upset) gave way to Super Tuesday (not so much). An intense Mitt Romney surprised some by leaving the presidential race, and an erratic Britney Spears surprised everyone by leaving the hospital. A hungry Microsoft tried to swallow Yahoo whole, and the space shuttle Atlantis launched after a two-month delay.

Deep breaths. Turn off the television. Fire up the screensaver and walk away, brother.

No one's comparing Britney's peculiar travails to a mass shooting, of course. But the sheer sensory news overload of this past week shoved us further toward a point of collective saturation that's remarkable even for the savvy, media-obsessed culture that we have become.

Are things getting worse? Is too much happening for us to process? Should we, like Steve Carell in "Evan Almighty," begin building an ark? Or do we just know about more stuff quicker, thanks to the incessant media maelstrom of Internet broadband, cable news and articles like this one?

"When you wake up and get your cup of coffee and turn on the 'Today' show and hear one story and say, 'Oh, my,' and the next three are just as bad, it has an impact on how you start your day," says Brenda Garton, a former TV news anchor who teaches in the communication department at Western New England College in Springfield, Mass.

> "When you wake up and get your cup of coffee and turn on the 'Today' show and hear one story and say, 'Oh, my,' and the next three are just as bad, it has an impact on how you start your day."
>
> **—Brenda Garton, communication department at Western New England College in Springfield, Mass.**

"We are surrounded and consumed by this news. It's at work, it's at school, it's at home, it's on our Web sites," she says. "We're certainly given more of a front seat to it today. ... I hope we're not getting numb when we hear about some severe tragedy."

Rarely in modern memory has spectacle been so intense as to be both numbing and utterly addictive to watch. There was, of course, that indelible week in September 2001. And the excruciating weekend in 1963 that began with a president cut down by bullets and ended with his assassin falling to the same fate. There were riots in the 1960s, hostage crises in the 1970s, a shuttle explosion in the 1980s and a white Bronco and a blue dress in the 1990s.

But except for 9/11, all those happened before the unremitting, Web-driven news cycle really came of age. And, more important, even the most destructive of them were pretty much self-contained.

What made the past week so unsettling, so utterly rubberneckable, was not only the nature of events but their breadth. It was enough to make you look at everything around you—the weather, the television, fellow Americans—with the cold eye of suspicion.

By week's end, the quotes on the news were starting to sound sadly, distressingly alike—such sound bites as, "There was mass pandemonium—people running," and "We want to wake up from this nightmare."

Those could have been uttered in Georgia, in Kentucky, in Missouri, in Arkansas, in California—and in two places in Ohio. As it happened, they were said, respectively, by a police sergeant after a 23-year-old woman named Latina Williams opened fire on a Louisiana college campus and killed two fellow students, and by a church secretary after her pastor was killed in a car accident while counseling Tennessee tornado victims.

Then there was flood-weary furniture store owner Jim Heringhaus of Ottawa, Ohio, summing things up for the country—albeit inadvertently—as he talked to his governor Friday. "I don't know," he said, "how many more of these I can take."

We tend to think that the more technologically advanced and sophisticated we get, the more we control our environment. That's sweet but silly, and it only takes one Cookie Thornton to disabuse an entire community of that notion. And, as the past week shows, it only takes a few of them to send the message to a nation.

At the same time, though, Americans are an optimistic people—or, at least, we've convinced ourselves that we are.

We get beaten about the face and head and instinctively insist we'll pick up pieces, lick wounds and go on. We hunger for hopeful headlines like the one Friday afternoon on CNN's crawl: "Miracle in the mud—baby survives tornado." Whether truth or posturing, it's part of the American narrative to believe that, even as we live through the curse of interesting times, tomorrow's another day. Don't stop thinking about it, we sing—it's always a day away.

Beware, however. These days in America, tomorrow is something else, too, something more forbidding: It's yet another news cycle waiting to happen.

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.
▲82° ▼75°

WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.
▲81° ▼73°

THURSDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.
▲81° ▼72°

FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.
▲80° ▼72°

SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.
▲79° ▼73°

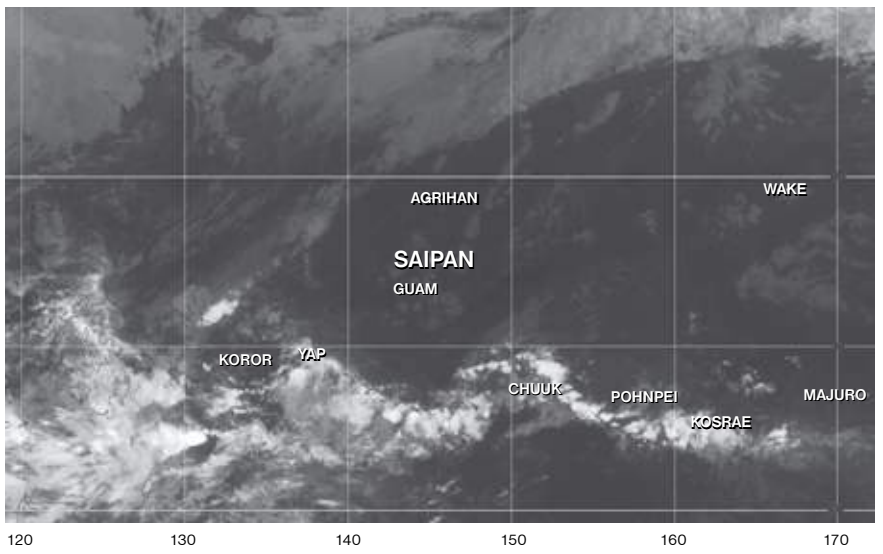
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼75
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼75
Majuro	Sunny	▲86	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲73	▼64
Beijing	Sunny	▲38	▼18
Hong Kong	Showers	▲56	▼50
Honolulu	Showers	▲78	▼69
London	Sunny	▲56	▼38
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼52
Manila	Showers	▲86	▼72
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲77	▼53
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲79	▼69
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲37	▼33
Osaka	Cloudy	▲41	▼25
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲47	▼34
Pusan	Sunny	▲39	▼17
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲52	▼35
Salem	Showers	▲49	▼34
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲61	▼47
Seoul	Sunny	▲28	▼13
Tokyo	Rain	▲53	▼42
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲42	▼39

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, FEB. 11, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from 25N153E to north of the Marianas at 21N145E to end near 9N130E. Patchy clouds and scattered showers are found along and up to 70 miles northwest of this feature. A cold front runs southwestward from 25N150E to 22N140E then turns northwestward to an area low pressure centered near 25N133E. Extensive cloudiness and widespread rain are occurring along and north of this boundary to beyond 25N. A near-equatorial trough extends southeastward from a weak circulation centered near 3N130E to end at EQ140E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are forming north of the trough axis over Koror or south of a line from 8N130E to 5N140E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms from Yap across Chuuk, Pohnpei to Kosrae within 100 miles of a line from 10N136E to 5N142E to 5N147E to 8N151E to 6N156E to 4N167E. Scattered showers are also seen south of Kwajalein and Majuro to west of the dateline within 80 miles of a line from 4N167E to 5N179E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
04:54AM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
10:59AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
05:55PM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
11:59PM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:43AM	6:19PM
Wednesday	6:43AM	6:20PM
Thursday	6:42AM	6:20PM
Friday	6:42AM	6:21PM
Saturday	6:42AM	6:21PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:01AM	11:00PM
Wednesday	10:46AM	
Thursday	11:36AM	12:00AM*
Friday	12:31PM	01:04AM
Saturday	01:31PM	02:08AM

*following day**

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 2, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 078	8:25am	1:30pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:50pm	7:30pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:25am	11:05am	Daily

Saipan-Manila

CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	4:00am	7:35am	1,4,5,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Saipan-Shanghai

MU 590	4:20am	7:00am	2,6

Saipan-Beijing

CA 988	3:15am	7:00am	1,5

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Guam-Hongkong

CO 909	7:45pm	10:40pm	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:35am	3:05pm	Daily
NW 077	6:15pm	1:10am+1	Daily via Nagoya

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:40am	3:10pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily

Manila-Saipan

CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Shanghai-Saipan

MU 589	8:05pm	3:00am+1	1,5

Beijing-Saipan

CA 987	6:05pm	1:55am+1	4,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	5:25am+1	3 via Koror
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	11:40pm	6:20am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA
5,625.700
Down 98.200
(-1.72%)

HONG KONG
23,122.95
Down 346.51
(-1.48%)

JAKARTA
2,623.6741
Down 15.413
(-0.58%)

TOKYO
13,017.24
Down 189.91
(-1.44%)

K. LUMPUR
1,415.94
Down 16.41
(-1.15%)

MANILA
3,179.48
Down 61.65
(-1.90%)

SINGAPORE
2,895.87
Down 36.10
(-1.23%)

SEOUL
1,636.74
Down 59.83
(-3.53%)

BANGKOK
812.07
Up 5.63
(+0.70%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
12,182.13
-64.87

NASDAQ
2,304.85
+11.82

S&P
1,331.29
-5.62

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.1094
British Pound	0.5138
Canadian Dollar	0.9999
Chinese Renmbi	7.1905
Euro	0.688
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7986
Indian Rupee	39.654
Indonesian Rupiah	9250
Japanese Yen	107.245
Malaysian Ringgit	3.238
New Zealand Dollar	1.2691
Philippine Peso	40.785
Singapore Dollar	1.4189
South Korean Won	945.1
Swiss Franc	1.1009
Taiwan Dollar	32.002
Thailand Baht	31.785

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Pete Ada retires from BoG board

Patricia P. Ada is newest BOG board member

HAGATNA, Guam—The Board of Directors of the Bank of Guam announced yesterday that Pete P. Ada Jr. has retired from its board of directors after 33 years of service to the organization.

According to Lou Leon Guerrero, the Bank's president and board chair, "The Bank of Guam family is profoundly indebted to Pete Ada for his invaluable leadership and counsel during the incredible growth and success of our organization. We have been fortunate to have received his wisdom and friendship for these many years."

The Bank of Guam also announced that Patricia P. "Patty" Ada has accepted the appointment of the board of directors to replace Pete Ada, her father.

Ada

Patty Ada is an alumnus of the University of St. Thomas (St. Paul, Minnesota) and is a graduate of the Academy of Our Lady of Guam. From 1987-1989, Patty Ada worked for the Bank of Guam, first as a management trainee and then as a commercial loan officer. In 1989, Patty Ada was employed at RCA/MCI Guam in sales and marketing until 1992.

Patty Ada was hired in 1992 by Ada's Trust and Investment, Inc., and has worked as general manager since then. She is also a manager of P.P. Ada Investment and in 2002 became manager/partner of P&M, LLP, a real estate firm. She serves as board secretary and assistant treasurer of Ada's Trust and Investment Inc., a position she has held since 1992.

Patty Ada is a member of the Guam Chamber of Commerce and has also served with the Guam Women's Club.

Leon Guerrero said, "We are very pleased to have Patty Ada join our board. She brings a wealth of knowledge, skills and experience to the bank. She is an excellent addition to our board, and we welcome her close involvement in the future of the Bank of Guam." ***(BoG)***

Many believe US already in a recession

WASHINGTON (AP)—Empty homes and for-sale signs clutter neighborhoods. You've lost your job or know someone who has. Your paycheck and nest egg are taking a hit.

Could the country be in recession?

Sixty-one percent of the public believes the economy is now suffering through its first recession since 2001, according to an Associated Press-Ipsos poll.

The fallout from a depressed housing market and a credit crunch nearly caused the economy to stall in the final three months of last year. Some experts, like the majority of people questioned in the poll, say the economy actually may be shrinking now. The worry is that consumers and businesses will hunker down further and pull back spending, sending the economy into a tailspin.

"Absolutely, we're in a recession," said Hilda Sanchez, 44, of Waterford, Calif.

Squeezed by high energy and food bills, "we can't afford the things that we normally buy," she said. "We are cutting corners in our spending. For our groceries, we are buying a lot of generic and we are eating out less."

For many, the meltdown in the housing and mortgage markets has proved especially disturbing. Record numbers of people were forced from their homes, unable to afford the monthly loan payments. People watched their single biggest asset fall in value, a reason to tighten the belt.

"Obviously the housing market is creating deep concern. And one of the real problems could be that if people, as a result of their value of their homes going down, kind of pull in their horns," President Bush said in a television interview aired Sunday.

Credit has become harder to get, thwarting would-be home buyers, adding to the glut of unsold homes and aggravating the housing industry's woes.

"For-sale signs are everywhere. In my area, 35 to 40 homes are standing there and aren't even complete. There aren't any buyers," said Jim Sims, 60, of Greer, S.C.

Nanette Dahlin, 52, of St. Louis Park, Minn., called the situation "very scary." She said friends in Madison, Minn., put their home up for sale recently and reduced the asking price more than $100,000 in just a week. "They are in bad shape," Dahlin said.

For all of 2007, the economy grew by just 2.2 percent. That was the weakest performance since 2002, when the country was struggling to recover from the last recession. The housing collapse was the biggest culprit in 2007. Builders lowered spending on housing projects by 16.9 percent on an annualized basis, the most in 25 years.

The job market is faltering—a point driven home by a report showing that employers cut jobs in January for the first time in more than four years.

"The way things are, people are afraid of losing their jobs," Sanchez said.

Survey: Gas prices drop 3 cents to $2.94

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP)—The national average price for gasoline fell about 3 cents over the last two weeks, according to a survey released Sunday.

The average price of self-serve regular gasoline on Friday was $2.94 a gallon, mid-grade was $3.07 and premium was $3.18, according to the Lundberg Survey of 7,000 stations nationwide.

Of the cities surveyed, the cheapest price was in St. Louis, where a gallon of regular cost $2.76, on average. The highest was in Honolulu at $3.35.

Chavez threatens to halt oil sales to US

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—President Hugo Chavez on Sunday threatened to cut off oil sales to the United States in an "economic war" if Exxon Mobil Corp. wins court judgments to seize billions of dollars in Venezuelan assets.

Exxon Mobil has gone after the assets of state oil company Petroleos de Venezuela SA in U.S., British and Dutch courts as it challenges the nationalization of a multibillion dollar oil project by Chavez's government.

A British court has issued an injunction "freezing" as much as $12 billion in assets.

"If you end up freezing (Venezuelan assets) and it harms us, we're going to harm you," Chavez said during his weekly radio and television program, "Hello, President." "Do you know how? We aren't going to send oil to the United States. Take note, Mr. Bush, Mr. Danger."

Chavez has repeatedly threatened to cut off oil shipments to the United States, which is Venezuela's No. 1 client, if Washington tries to oust him. Chavez's warnings on Sunday appeared to extend that threat to attempts by oil companies to challenge his government's nationalization drive through lawsuits.

"I speak to the U.S. empire, because that's the master: continue and you will see that we won't sent one drop of oil to the empire of the United States," Chavez said Sunday.

"The outlaws of Exxon Mobil will never again rob us," Chavez said, accusing the Irving, Texas-based oil company of acting in concert with Washington.

A U.S. Embassy spokeswoman did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

Retail in focus this week on Wall Street

NEW YORK (AP)—Americans are paying more attention to how much they spend on each box of cereal, tank of gasoline and pair of pants—and Wall Street is, too.

This week's data on the U.S. consumer, particularly the Commerce Department's Wednesday report on January retail sales, are going to be monitored closely by investors for clues to how sunken home prices, high energy costs and job cuts are affecting spending.

"Retail sales are a big indicator at this point of the mindset of the consumer," said Kim Caughey, equity research analyst at Fort Pitt Capital Group. Government data and company executives alike have suggested that U.S. consumers are having to pare back their discretionary spending to buy necessities.

After the generally dismal sales figures reported by individual retailers last week, economists polled by Thomson Financial/IFR last Friday predicted that the government would say that overall retail sales dipped 0.3 percent in January after a similar slump in December.

"If it comes in well below what's expected, that could send the market into another tailspin," said Jennifer Ellison, principal at San Francisco-based Bingham, Osborn & Scarborough, which manages $2.1 billion in investments.

Then on Friday, the University of Michigan will release its preliminary February reading on consumer sentiment. It is not a perfect predictor of how Americans will spend their money, but it will serve as the most up-to-date reading on how they are feeling about the economy.

"It's pretty widely anticipated that consumer sentiment is declining," Ellison said.

AP

A man pumps gas at an Exxon gas station, Friday, Feb. 8, 2008 in Waltham, Mass.

Nation

Obama takes early lead in Maine

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP)—Democrats overlooked the snowy weather and turned out in heavy numbers for municipal caucuses Sunday, giving Barack Obama a slight lead over Hillary Rodham Clinton in early tallies for the party's party presidential nominee.

Democrats in 420 Maine towns and cities were deciding how the state's 24 delegates will be allotted at the party's national convention in August. Despite the weather, turnout was "incredible," party executive director Arden Manning said.

With 11 percent of the participating precincts reporting, Obama had a narrow lead over clinton Clinton, 175 to 168, with four uncommitted.

■■■

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democratic Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton replaced campaign manager Patti Solis Doyle with longtime aide Maggie Williams on Sunday, engineering a shake-up in a presidential campaign struggling to overcome rival Barack Obama's financial and political strengths.

AP

Democratic presidential hopefuls, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., right, and Sen. Barack Obama stand together before a Democratic presidential debate in Los Angeles in this Jan. 31, 2008 file photo. Many Democrats see the two as potential running mates and an unstoppable dream ticket.

Campaign aides said Solis Doyle made the decision to leave on her own and was not urged to do so by the former first lady or any other senior member of the team. But it comes as Clinton struggles to catch Obama in fundraising and momentum and faces the prospect of losing every voting contest yet to come in February.

Solis Doyle announced the shift in an e-mail to the staff on Sunday.

"I have been proud to manage this campaign and prouder still to call Hillary my friend for more than 16 years," Solis Doyle wrote. "Maggie is a remarkable person and I am confident that she will do a fabulous job."

Solis Doyle said she will serve as a senior adviser to Clinton and the campaign, and travel with Clinton from time to time.

■■■

The voting came a day after Obama and Clinton made personal appeals here, and after Obama picked up wins in Louisiana, Nebraska and Washington.

Organizers had expected heavy participation at the caucuses, but up to 8 inches of snow and Arctic cold were expected when many of the gatherings were scheduled. Even so, Democrats started Sunday with more than 4,000 absentee ballots in hand.

Manning said the weather wouldn't hurt turnout. In Bangor, the caucus started late because so many people showed up that they were lined up outside the door, he said.

In Portland, waterlogged Democrats carrying "Obama" and "Hillary" signs waited to get into the citywide caucus at Portland High School in separate lines that snaked nearly three city blocks in opposite directions.

Colin Johnson, an Obama supporter, said the Illinois senator is not a typical politician. "I'm convinced he's a once-in-a-generation leader," he said.

"He's young and energetic and Washington and the White House could benefit from some fresh air," said Joe Lewis, another Obama supporter.

But Tony Donovan said Obama can use some more seasoning. Donavan was supporting Clinton because she, like him, was a baby boomer who shared similar values and because she has the experience and the team to lead in Washington.

"Obama's a great guy. He'll be great in eight years," Donovan said. "He doesn't have the experience in the Senate. He doesn't have the experience in Washington. He's not ready."

SC fire forces 60 homes to be evacuated

CONWAY, S.C. (AP)—A wind-whipped forest fire forced the evacuation of 60 homes and threatened to burn several houses as smoke billowed above this small city near the South Carolina coast Sunday, officials said.

The fire, reported at 1 p.m., had burned roughly 250 acres with flames creeping to within inches of an unspecified number of homes, Horry County Fire Rescue spokesman Todd Cartner said.

Dozens of coastal fire departments responded, and authorities urged people to stay away from a wedged-shaped area just north of the city that was bounded on three sides by several miles of roads.

A portion of a highway north of Conway closed because of low visibility and the need to move fire equipment, Cartner said. People who fled their homes were congregating at a nearby church.

Cartner said he did not know how many people had evacuated.

Conway, a city of about 11,000 people, is about 15 miles northwest of Myrtle Beach.

The eastern half of the state was under a red flag fire warning, with winds gusting up to 30 mph and low humidity, according to the National Weather Service. The ground also is dry, which creates dangerous wildfire conditions.

More than 100 firefighters battling the blaze were frustrated by wind gusts of up to 30 mph that sent the flames jumping over parts of one highway. A fire destroyed a consignment shop before firefighters could douse the flames.

In North Carolina, winds gusting up to 60 mph in some areas toppled trees and power lines and also fanned brush fires across the state.

Sixth body found at Ga. refinery

PORT WENTWORTH, Ga. (AP)—Search crews recovered another body Sunday from a sugar refinery devastated by a massive explosion, raising the number of confirmed deaths to six, the state's top elected fire official said.

Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner John Oxendine told The Associated Press crews removed the body from the debris of the Imperial Sugar refinery shortly before ending search operations at sunset.

"The body was found in the final sweep," said Oxendine, who told The AP he got the news from Port Wentworth Fire Chief Greg Long. "It is in the custody of the medical examiner."

Savannah Fire Department Capt. Matt Stanley, spokesman for local firefighters at the scene, said he could not confirm that a sixth body had been found.

There were still two more workers missing in the smoldering remnants of the plant that exploded last week, sending dozens of workers to the hospital with burns and other injuries.

Officials on Sunday stopped the search at sunset. They had searched most of the plant, but had not yet searched a part of the refinery complex that was still burning and where the buildings were dangerously unstable.

Sugar still burning in two of the refinery's three badly damaged, 100-foot storage silos threatened to weaken the towering structures to the point of collapsing if the fire wasn't extinguished soon, Long said earlier.

He said firefighters hoped to smother the silo fires Monday by using construction cranes to dump sand into silos. One of the silos blew up late Thursday, possibly after combustible sugar dust ignited.

Long said search crews had covered 95 percent of the massive refinery. He said the areas that had not yet been searched were on the first floor of a building near the blast, including a break room, where upper floors had collapsed.

After shoring up the building, crews would have to squeeze into tight spaces among the rubble to search them.

Mounds of sugary sludge pouring out of the silos Sunday was solidifying, creating another obstacle to the recovery efforts. A firefighter said his search team had to use power tools to tear down a door glued shut by sticky sludge.

"As you've got sugar that's crystalizing and running down the chutes, it's like concrete," Savannah-Chatham County police Sgt. Mike Wilson said.

Strong wind coming off the Savannah River made conditions even more hazardous for crews trying to prevent the silos and plant buildings from collapsing, Stanley said earlier.

"We have a very windy day and a very weak structure," Stanley said.

Investigators have asked families for medical and dental records and any information about specific medical conditions, broken bones or surgeries the workers may have had to help identify the bodies, said Savannah-Chatham County police Detective Josh Hunt.

"Unfortunately, due to the severity of this disaster, it's going to be a difficult conclusion to reach," he said.

Seventeen workers remained hospitalized Sunday in critical condition with severe burns. Three others were released Sunday, said Beth Frits of the Joseph M. Still Burn Center in Augusta.

68-vehicle crash on highway kills 1, injures dozens

HAZLETON, Pa. (AP)—A blinding snow squall caused a 68-vehicle pileup on an interstate highway in northeastern Pennsylvania, killing at least one motorist and injuring several dozen, authorities said.

The snow led to the mid-afternoon pileup on Interstate 81. Northbound lanes were shut down and motorists detoured.

A woman died when her car became wedged underneath a tractor-trailer, said Lt. Jason Zoshak of Hazleton Township Fire and Rescue. About 35 people were injured. And at least 24 people whose cars were not drivable were placed in shelters.

"They had a heavy snow squall going through the area, zero visibility, high winds," he said. "There were vehicles everywhere."

Eighteen people were taken to Hazleton General Hospital, where most were being treated for minor injuries. Nursing supervisor Monica Link said she does not know whether any will be admitted.

ACROSS THE NATION

Bitter cold, whiteouts hit Upper Midwest

It was so cold Sunday in the Upper Midwest, and visibility was so poor in blowing snow, that church services were called off in parts of Michigan. At noon, thermometers in one North Dakota town still registered only 20 below zero. The windy, bitterly cold weather blanketed a region from the Dakotas across much of Minnesota into Wisconsin and Michigan. Subzero temperatures at midday extended into northern Iowa, the National Weather Service said. Snow whipped up by the bitingly cold wind created hazardous driving conditions Sunday in Michigan. State Police said the 5-mile-long Mackinac Bridge was closed because of whiteout conditions, and the sheriff's office in southwest Michigan's Cass County said visibility was less than 20 feet. ***(AP)***

Sick astronaut well, helps replacement

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—Shuttle Atlantis' sick German astronaut looked and sounded well Sunday as he helped a crewmate prepare for a spacewalk that should have been his. In an extremely unusual move, NASA pulled Hans Schlegel off the spacewalk to help install the European lab, Columbus, at the international space station, and delayed the work until Monday, one day later than planned. Schlegel, 56, a physicist and former paratrooper who has seven children, was fine for Thursday's liftoff and became ill in orbit, European Space Agency officials said, adding that the condition was neither life-threatening nor contagious. Even though he did not look sick, spacewalks are strenuous and an astronaut needs to be in top form, they said.

Huckabee looks ahead but questions Wash.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee is crying foul after John McCain's apparent victory in the Washington caucuses on Saturday. Huckabee's campaign released a statement Sunday saying it will be exploring all available legal options regarding the "dubious final results." Arizona Sen. McCain was announced as the victor in the caucuses with 26 percent of the vote to Huckabee's 24 percent. But Huckabee's campaign chairman, Ed Rollins, said Luke Esser, Washington's Republican Party chairman, chose to call the race too quickly for McCain. Rollins said Huckabee was losing by 242 votes with 87 percent of the vote counted. He said there were another 1,500 or so votes that were apparently not counted.

Asia

Poll: Pakistanis turn against bin Laden

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Sympathy for al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden and the Taliban has dropped sharply in Pakistan amid a wave of deadly violence, according to the results of a recent opinion poll.

The survey, conducted last month for the U.S.-based Terror Free Tomorrow organization, also identified the party of assassinated opposition leader Benazir Bhutto as the country's most popular ahead of Feb. 18 elections, and said most Pakistanis want President Pervez Musharraf to quit.

The poll suggests Pakistanis are looking to peaceful opposition groups after months of political turmoil and a wave of suicide attacks.

In the latest bloodshed, a bomber blew himself up at an opposition rally in the northwestern town of Charsadda on Saturday, killing 27 people and injuring 50.

According to the poll results only 24 percent of Pakistanis approved of bin Laden when the survey was conducted last month, compared with 46 percent during a similar survey in August.

Backing for al-Qaida, whose senior leaders are believed to be hiding along the Pakistani-Afghan border, fell to 18 percent from 33 percent.

Support for the Taliban, whose Pakistani offshoots have seized control of much of the lawless border area and have been engaged in a growing war against security forces, dropped by half to 19 percent from 38 percent, the results said.

Also, in a sharp rebuke to Musharraf—who seized power in a 1999 coup and whose standing has slumped since he tried to fire Pakistan's chief justice last March—70 percent of voters think he should quit immediately.

Terror Free Tomorrow is a bipartisan group seeking to reduce support for international terrorism.

Its advisory board includes likely Republican presidential nominee Sen. John McCain and Lee Hamilton, a former Democratic congressman who helped lead a study of White House Iraq policy last year. The group's president, Ken Ballen, says the advisory board plays no role in individual polls.

Fire destroys South Korean landmark

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—An overnight fire destroyed a 610-year-old landmark that was considered the top national treasure, officials said Monday. Police said the cause of the blaze was unclear but one official said arson was suspected.

The fire broke out Sunday night and burned down the wooden structure at the top of the Namdaemun gate that once formed part of a wall that encircled the capital.

Some 360 firefighters fought to bring the blaze under control, according to Lee Sang-joon, an official with the National Emergency Management Agency. No one was injured, he said.

Lee said that arson was suspected in the blaze. However, Kim Young-soo, the head of a police station in central Seoul handling the case, told a televised news conference said it was too early to make that conclusion.

The South Korean government opened the landmark gate, officially named Sungnyemun, to public in 2006 for first time in nearly a century.

The gate had been off-limits to the public since Japanese colonial authorities built an electric tramway nearby in 1907. Japan ruled the Korean Peninsula in 1910-45.

The gate was renovated in the 1960s and again in 2005.

AP

South Korean police officers stand guard in front of the destroyed South Korea's No. 1 national treasure Namdaemun in Seoul, South Korea, Monday, Feb. 11, 2008. An overnight fire destroyed the 610-year-old landmark that was considered the top national treasure, officials said. Police said the cause of the blaze was unclear but one official said arson was suspected.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Myanmar voting dates win few plaudits

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's surprise announcement that it will hold a vote on a new constitution this May and a general election in 2010 drew little enthusiasm Sunday among the military regime's critics and the public at large. The official announcements late Saturday of the constitutional referendum and the election were the first moves by the junta to set dates for stages of its so-called road map to democracy. Critics claim the long-delayed road map is designed to perpetuate military rule, not promote democracy. And at tea shops in Yangon, where morning news and gossip is traditionally exchanged, many seemed unimpressed with the developments.

Pakistan attack victims mourned

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Hundreds of mourners wept Sunday as villagers buried the victims of a suicide bombing at a Pakistani political gathering, an attack that killed 27 people and stoked fears about security ahead of this month's crucial parliamentary elections. Saturday's blast devastated a hall where about 200 people had gathered for a rally in the town of Charsadda, located in the turbulent North West Frontier province, where Islamic extremists have been battling government forces. The rally was organized by the Awami National Party—a secular group that competes against Islamist parties for support among the ethnic Pashtun community.

Ex-Khmer Rouge minister out of hospital

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—A former Khmer Rouge foreign minister returned to detention under Cambodia's U.N.-assisted genocide tribunal after spending nearly a week hospitalized for a urinary tract problem, officials said Sunday. Ieng Sary was discharged from the hospital Saturday evening and returned to his cell at the tribunal's custom-built compound, said tribunal spokesman Reach Sambath. Ieng Sary is one of five former high-ranking members of the Khmer Rouge who were taken into custody last year, and are now awaiting trial in connection with the deaths of an estimated 1.7 million people through execution, overwork and starvation when the group held power from 1975-79.

Bishops back 2 who exposed alleged Philippine corruption

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Influential Roman Catholic bishops voiced support Sunday for two officials who exposed allegations of large-scale corruption in the Philippine government, urging Filipinos to back efforts to uncover the truth.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines praised former House Speaker Jose de Venecia and a government consultant, Rodolfo Lozada Jr., for bringing to public attention a bribery scandal that implicated President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's husband and a resigned election official.

The Philippines is predominantly Roman Catholic, and the church played key roles in the nonviolent revolts that ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 and President Joseph Estrada in 2001 over allegations of massive corruption and misrule.

In the latest instance the bishops, led by Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, called de Venecia and Lozada "courageous" for exposing "the high level of graft and corruption."

"Their public confession may be considered a providential event that may yet save our country from being hostage to scandalous and shady government deals," Lagdameo said in a statement posted on the Web site of the bishops' group.

"Our country has too long been captive to the corruption of people in governance," he said. "We have to confess that corruption is, in truth, our greatest shame as a people."

Lagdameo urged the Philippines to back religious groups' efforts to uncover the truth behind the alleged corruption and to join protest prayers.

"This truth challenges us now to communal action," he said.

De Venecia, 71, was the longest-serving speaker of the powerful House of Representatives. Arroyo's dominant allies removed him from the post in a Feb. 5 vote.

Arroyo's alliance with de Venecia frayed last year when his son, Jose "Joey" de Venecia III—a losing bidder in a government broadband contract—told a Senate inquiry that Arroyo's husband had been promised a US$70 million kickback from the deal. Her husband, Jose "Mike" Miguel Arroyo, denied the allegation.

De Venecia stood by his son's allegations, and claims he has knowledge of cheating in the 2004 presidential elections that Arroyo won.

AP

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, left, is greeted by Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales as she attends a mass at a Church in Ermita tourist district, Manila, Philippines on Sunday Feb. 10, 2008.

Police: Indonesia concert rush kills 10

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A stampede at an Indonesian punk rock concert left 10 people dead and dozens more injured, most of them teenagers, police said Sunday.

The deadly crush happened Saturday night as hundreds of people tried at the same time to leave a concert by local band Beside, held at a small cultural center hall in West Java province's capital, Bandung, said local police chief Col. Bambang Suparsono.

Ten people were trampled to death and scores of others were treated for breathing difficulties, said Noorman, a doctor who treated some of the injured. Like many Indonesians, he goes by a single name. Most of the casualties were teenagers, he said.

"People were screaming in panic when others fell down and were trampled," said Dani, a witness. "I saw many people unconscious lying on the ground. I fell down, but fortunately I was pulled out by someone in the crowd."

It was unclear how the rush started at the show in Bandung, about 100 miles southeast of the capital, Jakarta. Dani told reporters people were pushing to get in and out of the venue's main entrance at the same time.

World

More than 50 killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—Car bombs and gunmen struck new U.S. allies, police and civilians Sunday in northern Iraq, killing as many as 53 people. The spate of attacks came even as the American military released a captured diary and another document they say show al-Qaida in Iraq cracking under a Sunni revolt against its brutal tactics.

The violence coincided with a visit by Defense Secretary Robert Gates to Baghdad, where he warned that hard choices face Iraq's political leaders on how to stabilize the country despite promising new signs of progress toward reconciliation.

The deadliest bombing on Sunday was near Balad, 50 miles north of Baghdad, against a checkpoint manned jointly by Iraqi police and members of an awakening group.

Iraqi police said a suicide truck bomber targeted a checkpoint manned by U.S.-allied fighters and Iraqi police at the entrance of a bridge in the district of Yathrib on the outskirts of Balad. Security forces opened fire on the driver, but he managed to detonate his payload, devastating a nearby car market and other stores.

Police in the joint coordination center of the surrounding Salahuddin province and hospital officials said 34 people were killed and 37 others were wounded. Capt. Kadim Hamid said many residents in the predominantly Sunni area had removed victims directly from the site because they feared going to the hospital in Balad's mostly Shiite center.

The U.S. military put the casualty toll at 23 killed, 25 wounded and said a car bomb exploded near an Iraqi checkpoint in a market in Balad, but it did not confirm it was a suicide attack. U.S. and Iraqi forces had secured the area and the wounded had been evacuated to hospitals, according to a statement.

It was one of the worst bombings this year amid a recent lull in violence and underscored U.S. warnings that al-Qaida in Iraq remains a serious threat despite military offensives that have severely curtailed its operations.

The explosion came hours after suspected al-Qaida-linked insurgents stormed two villages near the Syrian border but were repelled by U.S.-allied fighters and Iraqi security forces in clashes that left at least 22 people dead.

UN: 12,000 flee Darfur for Chad

GENEVA (AP)—Up to 12,000 refugees fled Sudan's Darfur region to neighboring Chad over the weekend following air strikes by the Sudanese military and thousands more may be coming, the U.N. refugee agency said Sunday.

The agency was bringing emergency assistance to the Chad border where the Darfur refugees were giving detailed descriptions of air attacks Friday on three West Darfur towns.

The refugees are "destitute and terrified," said Helene Caux, spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees headquartered in Geneva. "They told of their villages being looted and burned, and encircled by militia." Most of the new refugees in Chad are men and they told the U.N. that thousands of women and children are on their way, Caux added.

U.N. officials say the worsening situation in Darfur has been exacerbated by a recent rebel attack on the capital of neighboring Chad. Chad has accused Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir of backing those rebels in a bid to prevent deployment of a European peacekeeping force in the Chad-Sudan border region where some 400,000 refugees are living.

Sudan's Arab-dominated government has been accused of unleashing more attacks by its allied janjaweed militias, which are accused of committing the worst atrocities against Darfur's ethnic African communities. At least 200,000 people have been killed and 2.5 million displaced since the violence began five years ago.

Kenyans turn vigilante as crime surges

KISUMU, Kenya (AP)—Children clustered around the charred body, its features melted into an unrecognizable black mask. The man, accused of being a thief, was the fourth person to be burned alive this month in this western Kenyan city.

Residents say they are carrying out their own punishments against criminals because police have been too busy coping with Kenya's postelection chaos to prevent theft and looting.

"People are taking advantages of the skirmishes and stealing from other people," said Dorothy Atieno, a primary school teacher, as she stared at the corpse in Kisumu. "This is an example to them."

A rise in crime and vigilante attacks has been part of Kenya's overall descent into lawlessness since a disputed Dec. 27 presidential election. Rival ethnic groups have turned on each other in a cycle of revenge attacks, police have clashed with opposition protesters, and homes and businesses across the country have been torched. At least 1,000 people have died and hundreds of thousands of have been chased to refugee camps.

The violence had devastated the economy, scaring off tourists who bring billions in revenue and forcing hotels and other businesses to fire employees.

WORLD BRIEFS

Israel's Olmert says no invasion Gaza

JERUSALEM (AP)—Prime Minister Ehud Olmert on Sunday ruled out a broad military operation in the Gaza Strip, deflecting rising anger after an 8-year-old boy lost a leg in a Palestinian rocket attack. But Israel's top diplomat warned it will be impossible to reach a peace agreement with Palestinians as long as the Hamas rulers of Gaza continue to foment violence. "Anger is not an operational plan," Olmert said in response to clamoring for a full-scale invasion of northern Gaza to take over the areas where militants have been launching the rockets. There were calls from the Cabinet for assassinating Hamas political leaders. Residents of the battered town of Sderot near Gaza blocked the main highway entrance into Jerusalem as the Cabinet met.

Army sniper convicted of killing Iraqi

BAGHDAD (AP)—A military jury on Sunday convicted an Army sniper of murder and sentenced him to 10 years in prison for killing an Iraqi civilian who wandered into the hiding place where six soldiers were sleeping. Sgt. Evan Vela, 24, was found guilty of murder without premeditation, of aiding and abetting in planting an AK-47 on the dead man's body and of lying to military investigators about the shooting. He had faced a possible life sentence. Vela showed no emotion when the verdict was read, but he asked the jury for mercy before it broke to decide his sentence. He apologized to the court, the Army and one of the sons of Genei Nasir al-Janabi, the man he shot with a pistol in May.

Norway shuts Afghan embassy over threats

OSLO, Norway (AP)—Norway closed its embassy in the Afghan capital because of terror threats Sunday, nearly a month after a Norwegian journalist was among eight people killed in a suicide attack on a luxury hotel in Kabul. The Nordic nation, which recently said it would send more troops to the NATO force in Afghanistan, has been singled out at least twice as a potential target by al-Qaida. "The embassy has been closed down today due to terror threats," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Kristin Melsom said. She would not describe the threats and said it was too early to say how long the embassy would be closed. A reporter for the Norwegian newspaper Dagbladet was among those killed when militants with suicide vests, grenades and AK-47 rifles attacked the Serena hotel in Kabul on Jan. 15.

Digging up Jerusalem's past is tricky

AP

A tourist walks outside at the City of David, near Jerusalem's Old City, Monday, Dec. 31, 2007. Underneath the homes and ragged streets of the Palestinian neighborhood of Silwan lie the buried remnants of a glorious Jewish past.

JERUSALEM (AP)—Underneath the homes and ragged streets of the Palestinian neighborhood of Silwan lie the remnants of a glorious Jewish past: coins, seals, a water tunnel hewn by a Judean king 2,700 years ago, a road that led to a biblical Temple.

But archaeology is hardwired into the politics of modern-day Arab-Israeli strife, and new digs to unearth more of this past are cutting to the heart of the charged argument over who owns the holy city today.

Israel says it's reconnecting with its ancient heritage. Palestinians contend the archaeology is a political weapon to undermine their own links to Jerusalem.

Lying on a densely populated slope outside the walled Old City, the area is known to Israelis as the City of David, named for the legendary monarch who ruled a Jewish kingdom from this spot 3,000 years ago. It is the kernel from which Jerusalem grew.

But Silwan is in east Jerusalem, which Israel captured from Jordan in 1967 and which Palestinians claim for the capital of a future state.

Palestinians and Israelis are trying again to negotiate a peace deal, one which must include an agreement to share Jerusalem. The collision in this neighborhood—between Silwan and the City of David—encapsulates the complexities ahead.

The organization funding the digs, the Elad Foundation, is associated with the religious settlement movement and is committed to preventing Israel from ever ceding the area in a peace deal. It says it has a yearly budget of close to $10 million, nearly all of it from donations, and is buying up Palestinian homes in Silwan to accommodate Jewish families. Around 50 have moved in so far, living in houses flying Israeli flags and guarded by armed security men paid for by the Israeli government.

At the same time, the City of David digs have expanded through the neighborhood, carried out by respected Israeli government archaeologists with funding from Elad.

Fakhri Abu Diab, a neighborhood activist, said the Elad Foundation has made it clear that he and his neighbors are in the way.

"They want the land without the people," he said.

None of the finds that the archaeologists highlight for the public are from the eras of Christian or Muslim rule. "They are looking only for Jewish ruins," said Abu Diab. "It's as if we're not here."

Elad denies having any intention of driving out Silwan's Palestinians. "There will always be Jews and Arabs living together here," said Doron Spielman, Elad's international director of development. Dozens of Silwan Arabs are employed by Elad, he said, and the foundation's activities include neighborhood beautification projects which improve life for Palestinian residents.

Still, he said, "We do not deny we have a Zionist dream—to reveal the ancient city beneath the ground and create a thriving Jewish neighborhood above the ground."

More than 160 feet under Silwan on a recent afternoon, a visitor walked for half an hour in darkness and knee-deep water through Hezekiah's tunnel, the stillness disturbed only by a party of South American tourists bellowing the theme song from the "Indiana Jones" movies.

The Old Testament books of Kings and Chronicles recount the tunnel's origins: Hezekiah, king of Judea, dug it to channel water inside the city walls ahead of a siege by Assyrian armies.

Measuring 1,750 feet long—about a third of a mile—the tunnel was dug around 700 B.C. by two teams that started from each end and met in the middle, an engineering feat brought to life by their chisel marks, still visible on the walls, and recounted in an inscription they mounted on the wall.

"The City of David shows us the history and archaeology of Jerusalem since the day it was founded. Jerusalem's foundations are here," said archaeologist Eli Shukrun, standing near the entrance to another tunnel—a long, dank-smelling Roman-era sewer through which Jews fled Jerusalem as it was torched by Rome's legions in 70 A.D.

The sewer ran beneath a road that led up to the Second Temple, the center of the Jewish faith, destroyed in the same Roman assault.

Overdrive

2008 INFINITI EX35 JOURNEY

A pint-size crossover that will fit many

By WARREN BROWN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

NEW YORK—A long road trip in a premium vehicle was a good way to end the old year and begin anew. For the drive, we chose the 2008 Infiniti EX35 Journey, a luxury crossover utility model that was big enough to accommodate a party of five, but small enough to escape the $10-a-night surcharge that many New York garages apply to mid-size and larger sport-utility vehicles.

But a caveat is needed: The EX35 is a compact, car-based crossover utility/wagon. That means it is small and lacking in the utility and interior space, especially in the rear cabin, that many of us have come to expect in vehicles of its kind.

For people who haul maximum loads, the EX35 won't do. But for those who are willing to make accommodations—pack lightly and work out an agreement among rear passengers on who gets to sit in the middle—it is the perfect way to go.

First there is the driving experience, which easily is among the best in the crossover utility segment. In that regard, think of the EX35 as a tall version of the crisp-handling Infiniti G35 sedan on which the EX35 is based.

Nothing has been lost in translation from sedan to crossover utility/wagon. This is surprising at first. You sit behind the wheel of the EX35 thinking that you are going to have a pleasant, but decidedly tame driving experience—which is exactly what you get at residential neighborhood speeds of 20 to 35 mph.

But then you get on an expressway and—whoosh! The crossover utility/wagon takes on the persona of a sports car minus sports-car brutality—the rough ride characteristic of small cars with short wheelbases and super-tight suspensions traversing less-than-perfect road surfaces.

The EX35 is solid but compliant, allowing you to get a feel for the road. Credit here goes to the EX35's suspension, a seeming mismatch of front-end parts from the G35 sedan (front double-wishbone arrangement) and rear components from the mid-size FX35 crossover utility (rear multi-link suspension system). It's odd. But it works wonderfully well, especially around curves, where the EX35 dances nicely.

Some critics have knocked the EX35 as being little more than an expensive amalgamation of parts-bin pieces. It does borrow much from its Infiniti and Nissan brethren, including the 3.5-liter 297-horsepower V-6 found in the G35 sedan. So what?

The 2008 Infiniti EX35 Journey, built on a car platform, is a boutique, compact luxury sport-utility model designed primarily for affluent households with relatively few hauling needs.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Economist sees down US auto sales this year

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The next five months or so will be difficult ones for U.S. auto dealers, with sales expected to slump, but the chief economist for the National Automobile Dealers Association expects a bit of a rebound in the second half of the year.

Still, economist Paul Taylor predicts U.S. car and light truck sales will drop to about 15.7 million for the full year. That's down about 2.5 percent from the 16.1 million vehicles sold in 2007, the worst year in a decade, and down 1.3 million vehicles from the 17 million sold as recently as 2005.

At the NADA's annual convention in San Francisco, Taylor predicted slow economic growth and weak sales during the first half of the year, with unemployment and credit problems lingering.

"Energy costs of gasoline, home heating and cooling will continue to drain money from consumer budgets and slow down consumer spending," he said Sunday.

Other economists and industry analysts have predicted U.S. sales as low as 15.5 million, while some automakers have predicted up to 16 million.

Taylor said the economy could slip into a recession if the Commerce Department revises fourth-quarter 2007 gross domestic product growth downward from the anemic 0.6 percent it reported last month. Two more revisions of fourth quarter statistics are possible, and if the first quarter of this year is also negative, that would mean a recession, Taylor said.

"We think the first quarter of this year is going to be the weakest quarter," he said in an interview with The Associated Press.

But Taylor also said the economy could slide by with small growth and avoid a recession. Many economists define a recession when GDP growth is negative for two consecutive quarters.

AP

Pre-owned vehicles are shown on a Chevrolet dealership lot in Detroit, Friday, Feb. 8, 2008.

CRUISIN'

In the know

By GREG ZYLA
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: Greg, I am writing mainly to compliment you on your answer to "M.M." and his three-speed-manual-equipped Pontiac GTO. Instead of giving the inquirer "short-shift," you have done a lot of work and combined a fully informative response, and it was interesting even to me. Having done nearly 2,500 research books (and microfilm) over 11 years, I think I have recognized a good effort.

My father used to build the luxury Lozier automobile (built from 1900 to 1916 by Harry. A. Lozier and known as the HAL) and also Cadillac, White Motor Company (1902-1981), Cleveland Motor Car and Chandler (1913-1929). My father and a friend assembled five Cleveland Motor Cars every two days. My mother was Mr. Lozier's secretary.

As for my personal cars, I started with a 1941 Graham with a Continental motor. It was five years old and had 20,000 miles, but was never used in the winter. I drove that car for 13 years in Maine, Oklahoma, North Carolina and much of West Virginia. (Graham car production would eventually merge with Kaiser-Frazer in February 1947.)

I also went through six Packards, and they were wonderful cars. I owned a DeSoto (nice), Chrysler 300 (1965), a Plymouth and a Ford Galaxie that I had to put new rods in, as no one else would. I remember there was an "oiling kit" for the car available.

My son gave me your article on the 1966 GTO Ford-style "Dearborn M13 transmission." Keep up your interesting and good work, Greg, and I will watch for another column by you.—Robert Shamleffer, Willoughby, Ohio

A: Thanks so much, Mr. Shamleffer. Letters like yours keep me doing what I do, and loving it.

Write to Greg Zyla in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send an e-mail to gzyla@ptd.net.

NUTS & BOLTS

By WARREN BROWN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

CONSIDERATION
If your daily transportation needs require carrying lots of stuff and several large people, the EX35 is not for you. This is a boutique, compact luxury sport-utility model designed primarily for affluent households with relatively few hauling needs.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING
Excellent marks in all three categories. To drive it is to be seduced.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT
A design gem inside and out. You never get tired of looking at it.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT
The 2008 Infiniti EX35 is a compact luxury, front-engine crossover utility/wagon built on a car platform—in this case, the Infiniti G35 sedan. It is available with rear-wheel drive or all-wheel drive. There are two trim levels, Base and upscale Journey.

ENGINE/TRANSMISSION
The standard engine is a 3.5-liter, 24-valve V-6 that develops 297 horsepower at 6,800 rpm and 235 foot-pounds of torque at 4,800 rpm. The engine is mated to a five-speed transmission that can be operated automatically or manually.

CAPACITIES
There is seating for five people. Cargo capacity is 16.8 cubic feet with rear seats up. The 60/40 split rear seats can be lowered or raised at the push of a button. Lower the seats for more cargo, fewer passengers. The fuel tank holds 20 gallons of recommended premium unleaded gasoline.

MILEAGE
We averaged 22 mpg in highway driving.

SAFETY
Antilock brakes, head and side air bags, and electronic stability and traction control are standard equipment. This column strongly recommends the purchase of the optional AVM backup camera system. Also, consider purchasing the optional lane-departure warning system, which reduces the risk of crashes caused by drifting across traffic lanes.

PRICE
Base price of the 2008 Infiniti EX35 Journey is $36,250. Dealer's invoice price on that model is $33,330. Price as tested is $41,065, including $4,150 in options and a $715 destination charge. Dealer's price as tested is $37,578. Prices sourced from Infiniti and www.edmunds.com.

PURSE-STRINGS NOTE
The perfect vehicle for the person who loves driving more than hauling, but who has to haul a little something every now and then. Compare with Acura RDX, BMW X3, Land Rover LR2 and Lexus RX 350.

Life & Style

Winehouse dominates Grammys from afar

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
AP MUSIC WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Trapped half a world away by the place she promised to never "go, go, go," a vibrant, exuberant Amy Winehouse dominated the Grammys, winning five awards and delivering a defiant performance of her autobiographical hit "Rehab" via satellite from London.

Winehouse, nominated for six awards, lost the final prize at Sunday night's ceremony in a shocker when Herbie Hancock took album of the year for "River: The Joni Letters."

"You know it's been 43 years since the first and only time that a jazz artist got the album of the year award," Hancock said, then proceeded to honor "the giants upon whose shoulders I stand, some of whom like Miles Davis, John Coltrane ... unquestionably deserved the award in the past. But this is a new day, that proves that the impossible can be made possible."

For a while it seemed impossible that Winehouse would perform at all. She recently entered a drug rehabilitation center after months of erratic behavior and canceled performances, not to mention the anthemic "no, no, no" resistance of her hit song.

As the ceremony approached, suspense built over whether the British singer's drug troubles would cost her a work visa. When her visa application was rejected Thursday, Grammy producers arranged for her to perform remotely. On Friday, the U.S. government reversed itself and approved the visa, but it was too late for her to make the cross-continental trek.

So she took the stage at almost 4 a.m. London time Monday before a small cabaret audience, wearing a sly smile as she performed a sultry, soulful rendition of the hit that has defined her recent fall from grace. She looked just as coy as she sang the song "You Know I'm No Good"—almost reveling in the irony of her words.

Shortly afterward, Winehouse seemed dumbfounded when she was announced as the record of the year winner. She was immediately enveloped by her band, then her mother and father, who have publicly worried whether the 24-year-old artist would survive her demons.

"I am so proud of this album," Winehouse told The Associated Press in a statement. "I put my heart and soul into it and it's wicked to be recognized in this way. I feel truly honored to be mentioned in the same breath as many of the artists present tonight and to win is even more amazing!"

Her other awards were for best new artist, song of the year, pop vocal album and female pop vocal performance.

Winehouse's performance was not the only dramatic moment of the night. Kanye West, who had a leading eight nominations and won four trophies, delivered an electric, glow-in-the-dark rendition of "Stronger," then segued into a stirring tribute to his mother, Donda West, who died unexpectedly last year at age 58 after undergoing plastic surgery.

"Last night I saw you in my dreams, and now I can't wait to go to sleep," sang West, dressed in black and with MAMA etched into his haircut, as he launched into "Hey Mama," a celebratory tune from his second album that has now turned into a somber ode.

West won awards for best rap album for "Graduation," best solo performance for "Stronger," best rap song for "Good Life" and best rap performance by a duo or group for his collaboration with Common on "Southside."

SHORT LIST

Album of the Year: "River: The Joni Letters," Herbie Hancock.
Record of the Year: "Rehab," Amy Winehouse.
Song of the Year: "Rehab," Amy Winehouse (Amy Winehouse).
New Artist: Amy Winehouse.
Rap/Sung Collaboration: "Umbrella," Rihanna featuring Jay-Z.
Country Album: "These Days," Vince Gill.
Rap Album: "Graduation," Kanye West.
Rock Album: "Echoes, Silence, Patience & Grace," Foo Fighters.
Female R&B Vocal Performance: "No One," Alicia Keys.
Compilation Soundtrack Album for Motion Picture, Television or Other Visual Media: "Love," (The Beatles) George Martin & Giles Martin, producers. ***(AP)***

AP

Alicia Keys poses with her awards for best R&B vocal performance and best R&B song backstage at the 50th Annual Grammy Awards on Sunday, Feb. 10, 2008, in Los Angeles.

OVERHEARD AT THE GRAMMY

"The record of the year is the ultimate Grammy. It means that you had yourself a pretty big slammy."—will.i.am during his medley of record-of-the-year winners.

"I just got an award given to me by a Beatle. Have you had that happen yet, Kanye? ... Just kidding."—Vince Gill, accepting the award for best country album from Ringo Starr.

"I appreciate everything and I know you are really proud of me right now and I know you wouldn't want me to stop and you'd want me to be the No. 1 artist in the world. And Mama, all I'm gonna do is keep making you proud."—Kanye West, speaking about his late mother as he accepted the award for rap album.

"It's a pity Amy isn't here, but oh well, God bless her."—Ringo Starr on Grammy winner Amy Winehouse, who couldn't obtain a visa in time to attend the show.

"I think it's a great, great song, I think it's a great, brilliantly produced album and I think we all hope she gets better."—Josh Groban on Amy Winehouse.

"Dad, I know I promised I'd give you my first Grammy, but we might have to fight for this one."—Rihanna accepting the award for rap/sung collaboration.

"As many of you know, I first started singing when Lincoln was president."—Cher, 61, as she introduced Beyonce and Tina Turner.

"Frank Sinatra looked good for 150, didn't he?"—Prince, after Sinatra appeared in archival footage in a duet with Alicia Keys.

"I think she is a sexy young lady. I have kids as old as her, but I did enjoy it. That did not deter me from noticing at all."—Morris Day on Rihanna, after his band, The Time, performed a medley with the young R&B star.

"I think we all have to pay tribute to Ringo, here, and George, and Paul, who can't be with us, and of course, John. And, I guess we miss those guys a hell of a lot. They are the people who are behind this award."—Beatles producer George Martin, accepting the best compilation soundtrack album for "Love."

"It never gets old, believe me, it just never gets old."—Herbie Hancock, who has won 12 Grammys dating to 1983, accepting this year's award for contemporary jazz album for "River: The Joni Letters."

"You couldn't keep me from actually getting this myself—it's not the same when someone else gets this on your behalf."—Carrie Underwood, who raced onstage to accept her trophy for best female country vocal performance during the lightly attended non-televised segment of the Grammy Awards.

By The Associated Press

Death & Funeral Announcement

†Jesus Barcinas Agulto

April 11, 1941 – February 5, 2008

In his new Life he now joins his:
Daughter: Katherine Agulto DLGuerrero
Grandson: Alvin Agulto DLGuerrero
Parents: Thomas C./Ana B. Agulto
Parents-in-law: Jose H./Maria A. Masga
Brother: Pedro B. Agulto
Sister: Maria B. Agulto
Brother-in-law: Francisco A. Masga
Sister-in-law: Francisca M. Reyes

His spirit and memories will live forever in the hearts of his:
Wife: Dolores Masga Agulto
Children and Families:
MaryAnn A. & Edward Flores (Audrea F./Titus Omar (Edward Anthony, DeidreAnn),
Argernon F./Bonnie Mendiola (Madilynn Rose), April, Austin)
Joseph M. & Frances Agulto (Jesse, Thomas, Alice)
Clarissa A. & Vincent Torres (Margo, Rosannie, Vanavie, Chelsey, Camille, Kimberly, Vincent, Beng Beng, VJ)
Eleanor A. & Jesse Aguon (Jesse Jr., Keilani)
Aileen A. & Peter Camacho (Peter Jr., Kiana, Katherine)
Gerald M. Agulto & Evelyn Mu-a (Gerald Jr., Thomas, Justin, Cherisse)
Shirley A. & Jesse Tenorio (Kateleen, Jesse Jr.)
Ernestina A. & Joe Magofna (Joseph Jude)
Zeno C. DLGuerrero & Tina Sakisat (Crystal, Tasha, Zeno Jr.)

Sisters/Brothers/In-laws:
Dolores & Eloy S. Inos and children
Jose B. Agulto/Francine Agulto and children
Modesta A./Pedro Bartolo and children
Jesus A. Masga and family

He is additionally survived by numerous uncles, aunts, cousins, nephews, nieces and godchildren.

Daily Mass of intention is celebrated every 6:00 p.m. at San Vicente Church followed by daily Holy Rosary at 7:30 p.m. On Wednesday, February 13, his remains will be escorted at 8:00 a.m. from Borja Funeral Home to Mt. Carmel Cathedral for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:00 a.m. Burial will follow at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers.

Dolores M. Agulto & Family

'Jaws' actor Scheider dies at 75

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—Roy Scheider, a two-time Oscar nominee best known for his role as a police chief in the blockbuster movie "Jaws," died Sunday. He was 75.

Scheider died at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences hospital in Little Rock, hospital spokesman David Robinson said. The hospital did not release a cause of death.

However, hospital spokeswoman Leslie Taylor said Scheider had been treated for multiple myeloma at the hospital's Myeloma Institute for Research and Therapy for the past two years.

He was nominated for a best-supporting actor Oscar in 1971's "The French Connection" in which he played the police partner of Oscar winner Gene Hackman and for best-actor for 1979's "All That Jazz," the autobiographical Bob Fosse film.

However, he was best known for his role in Steven Spielberg's 1975 film, "Jaws," the enduring classic about a killer shark terrorizing beachgoers and well as millions of moviegoers.

Widely hailed as the film that launched the era of the Hollywood blockbuster, it was also the first movie to earn $100 million at the box office. Scheider starred with Richard Dreyfuss, who played an oceanographer.

"He was a wonderful guy. He was what I call 'a knockaround actor,'" Dreyfuss told The Associated Press on Sunday.

"A 'knockaround actor' to me is a compliment that means a professional that lives the life of a professional actor and doesn't' yell and scream at the fates and does his job and does it as well as he can," he said.

In 2005, one of Scheider's most famous lines in the movie—"You're gonna need a bigger boat"—was voted No. 35 on the American Film Institute's list of best quotes from U.S. movies.

That year, some 30 years after "Jaws" premiered, hundreds of movie buffs flocked to Martha's Vineyard, off the southeastern coast of Massachusetts, to celebrate the great white shark.

The island's JawsFest '05 also brought back some of the cast and crew, including screenwriter Carl Gottlieb and Peter Benchley, who wrote the novel that inspired Spielberg's classic. Spielberg, Scheider and Dreyfuss were absent.

Dreyfuss recalled Sunday a time during the filming of 'Jaws' when Scheider disappeared from the set. As the filming was on hold because of the weather, Scheider "called me up and said, 'You don't know where I am if they call.'

"He'd gone to get a tan. He was really very tan-addicted. That was due to a childhood affliction where he was in bed for a long time. For him being tan was being healthy," Dreyfuss said.

He added that Scheider "was a pretty civilized human being—you can't ask for much more than that."

Scheider was also politically active. He participated in rallies protesting U.S. military action in Iraq, including a massive New York demonstration in March 2003 that police said drew 125,000 chanting activists.

Scheider had a home built for him and his family in 1994 in Sagaponack in the Hamptons, where he was active in community issues. The oceanfront house featured five bedrooms, four fireplaces and various decks and porches.

Last summer, Scheider announced that he was selling the home for about $18.75 million to singer-songwriter Billy Joel and was moving to the nearby village of Sag Harbor.

AP

In this undated handout photo, Roy Scheider is shown in the movie "52 Pickup."

McConaughey, Hudson find $22M in 'Gold'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Fool's Gold" found real treasure as the romantic adventure starring Matthew McConaughey and Kate Hudson led the weekend box office with a $22 million debut.

Martin Lawrence's family reunion comedy "Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins" opened at No. 2 with $17.1 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Disney's "Hannah Montana & Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert," the 3-D concert film that was the previous weekend's top movie, fell to third place with $10.5 million, a sharp drop from its $31.1 million opening. The movie has grossed $53.4 million after 10 days.

Released by Warner Bros., "Fool's Gold" came in a bit under the $23.8 million opening of McConaughey and Hudson's hit romance "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days," which debuted over the same pre-Valentine's Day weekend in 2003.

AP

In this undated handout photo, Roy Scheider is shown in the movie "52 Pickup."

With Valentine's Day on Thursday, the studio is counting on "Fool's Gold" to hold up well, said Jeff Goldstein, Warner vice president of distribution.

Critics hated "Fool's Gold" but audiences were eager to catch McConaughey and Hudson, who play a divorced couple reunited in a quest for 18th-century treasure lost at sea.

"A great marketing campaign, two appealing stars, and reviews be damned," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Media By Numbers. "Heading into Valentine's week, it's sort of a natural."

Universal's "Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins" features Lawrence as a talk show host who reluctantly heads back to the family homestead for his parents' 50th anniversary.

This weekend's other new wide release, Picturehouse's "Vince Vaughn's Wild West Comedy Show: 30 Days & 30 Nights—Hollywood to the Heartland," tanked with just $507,000. Playing in 962 theaters, the documentary of Vaughn and other comics' standup tour averaged just $527 a cinema, compared to $7,043 in 3,125 locations for "Fool's Gold" and $7,175 in 2,387 theaters for "Roscoe Jenkins."

1. "Fool's Gold," $22 million.
2. "Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins," $17.1 million.
3. "Hannah Montana & Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert," $10.5 million.
4. "The Eye," $6.6 million.
5. "Juno," $5.73 million.
6. "27 Dresses," $5.7 million.
7. "The Bucket List," $5.3 million.
8. "Rambo," $4.1 million.
9. "Meet the Spartans," $4.075 million.
10. "There Will Be Blood," $4.073 million.

'4400' fans send network sunflower seeds

WAHPETON, N.D. (AP)—A sunflower seed company says it has shipped nearly 6,000 bags of its salty snacks to USA Network to try to save a science fiction show. And the actor whose seed-spitting character inspired the campaign is loving every minute of it.

Fans of "The 4400" asked Wahpeton-based Giants Snacks LLC to help with the campaign after the cable network dumped the show in December. Many of the sales of Giants Sunflower Seeds are international orders, which the company does not normally accept.

"I'm sure by Monday afternoon, the mailroom at USA Network will be getting somewhat full," said Tom Schuler, who handles Internet sales for Giants.

The campaign, modeled after one by fans who sent peanuts to keep the CBS show "Jericho" alive, has the support of 4400 actor Jeffrey Combs. His character, Dr. Kevin Burkhoff, was the inspiration for the sunflower send-off.

"There's nothing better than an avid fan," Combs said. "The '4400' fans have taken their loss with grace and dignity and, with this campaign, quite a bit of ironic humor.

"Love it. Love them for doing this," he said.

The show tells the story of 4,400 people who were abducted at various times but returned at the same time near Seattle. They have not aged since their abduction and remember nothing about the time they were gone.

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NOW SHOWING

Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins
Friday 4:25 7:30 9:50
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:30 9:50
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:30
Martin Lawrence, Louis C.K.
Comedy • Rated PG13
Synopsis: Talk-show sensation RJ Stevens left behind his modest Southern upbringing and family name to transform into a self-help guru dispensing his "Team of Me" philosophy to millions of adoring fans. With a reality-TV-star fiancée and money to burn, there's no piece of the Hollywood dream RJ hasn't achieved. After his parents request that he come home for their 50th wedding anniversary, the TV host packs up his 10-year-old son and diva bride-to-be and heads back to Georgia.

Fool's Gold
Friday 4:10 7:15 9:30
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:15 9:30
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:15
Matthew McConaughey, Kate Hudson
Action, Adventure • Rated PG13
Synopsis: Ben "Finn" Finnegan is a good-natured, surf bum-turned-treasure hunter who is obsessed with finding the legendary 18th century Queen"s Dowry--40 chests of exotic treasure that was lost at sea in 1715. In his quest, Finn has sunk everything he has, including his marriage to Tess Finnegan and his more-rusty-than-trusty salvage boat, "Booty Calls." Just as Tess has begun to rebuild her life, working aboard a mega-yacht owned by billionaire Nigel Honeycutt, Finn discovers a vital clue to the treasure"s whereabouts.

Sweeny Todd: Demon Barber
Friday 4:05 7:25 9:40
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:25 9:40
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:25
Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter
Thriller, Musical • Rated R
Synopsis: Benjamin Barker, a man unjustly sent to prison by a lecherous judge, vows revenge, not only for that cruel punishment, but for the devastating consequences of what happened to his wife and daughter. When he returns to reopen his barber shop, Sweeney Todd becomes the Demon Barber of Fleet Street who "shaved the heads of gentlemen who never thereafter were heard from again."

Meet the Spartans
Friday 4:20 7:10 9:35
Saturday 1:15 4:20 7:10 9:35
Sunday 1:15 4:20 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:10
Diedrich Bader, Kevin Sorbo
Comedy • Rated PG13

Sakal, Sakali, Saklolo
Friday 4:30 7:05 9:55
Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:05 9:55
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:05
Judy Ann Santos, Ryan Agoncillo
Comedy, Romance • Rated NR

Cloverfield
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:45
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:45
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Michael Stahl David, Mike Vogel
Comedy, Drama • Rated PG13

27 Dresses
Friday 4:15 7:20 10:00
Saturday 1:10 4:15 7:20 10:00
Sunday 1:10 4:15 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:20
Katherine Heigl, James Marsden
Romantic Comedy • Rated PG13

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Alba wows geeks at Oscars' tech fest

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—At the first Academy Award presentations of the year, 20 computer geeks graciously accepted honors for their work on particle flow simulation technology—stuff that makes water scenes in the movies look more realistic.

With an end to the writers strike in sight, and the prospect of a reassuringly stylish Oscars ceremony on the minds of most everyone in the industry, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts kept its Scientific and Technical Awards dinner Saturday night as charmingly unglamorous as ever. A magician provided the pre-meal entertainment, Jessica Alba showed up to present the awards—and be gawked at—and nerddom was held up as something to celebrate.

"Fluid effects rock and all of us who work in fluids know this," one honoree, Nafees Bin Zafar, said earnestly.

With all the writing for the show done by an Academy administrator who isn't part of the Writers Guild, picket lines were nowhere to be seen. And though the three-month walkout by Hollywood writers wasn't mentioned once by awards winners, Academy President Sid Ganis was giddy before the meal over prospects for a settlement over the weekend and a green light for a full-fledged Oscar ceremony Feb. 24.

Academy president Sid Ganis talks with actress Jessica Alba at the Scientific and Technical Awards, presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Saturday night, Feb. 9, 2008, in Beverly Hills, Calif. AP

Organizers had been forced to prepare for two Oscar shows—one with writers and stars and one without.

"Hopefully, I'll be getting a call on my cell phone from those who are involved in all this," Ganis said. "If we have a go, then I'll call (telecast producer) Gil (Cates) right away. ... I can't wait. I so hope we can say 'Plan A.'"

Alba was visibly pregnant in a frilly gray dress as she nimbly picked her way through a script laden with difficult technical references like "semi-Lagrangian" (it's a mathematical process used in special-effects software that simulates gas clouds).

The star of "The Eye" was the subject of several awkward sidelong glances from winners, all but one of whom were male.

"For a computer geek like me, it's really sexy to hear Jessica talk about stable, semi-Lagrangian fluid flows," quipped Duncan Brinsmead of Autodesk, a developer of the tools for visual effects.

"They said I got 60 seconds so I might just spend the last 15 realizing I'm 10 feet away from the most beautiful woman on the planet," said Ron Fedkiw, a Stanford University associate professor and consultant to Industrial Light and Magic on fluid simulation. "And no restraining order this time."

Other winners were more demure. Honored for the invention of pint-sized fog machines, Jorg Pohler remained silent as if playing Penn to Rudiger Kleinke's Teller. While Kleinke read an acceptance speech, Pohler smiled sublimely as puffs of smoke wafted up from inside his tuxedo.

Screens at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel ballroom displayed clips of movies that used the honored technologies, including "Happy Feet," "Poseidon" and "Transformers." The only face from more well-known Oscar categories to make an appearance was supporting actor nominee Javier Bardem in a clip of "No Country for Old Men."

Obama wins a Grammy for 'Hope' book

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Barack Obama topped a Clinton in another contest on Sunday—the Grammys.

The presidential candidate beat both former Presidents Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter to win best spoken word album for his audio version of his book "The Audacity Of Hope: Thoughts On Reclaiming The American Dream."

Clinton was nominated for his book "Giving: How Each of Us Can Change the World" and Carter for "Sunday Mornings in Plains: Bringing Peace to a Changing World." Also nominated were Maya Angelou and Alan Alda.

Obama won the same award in 2006 for the audio version of his 1995 memoir, "Dreams from My Father."

Sens. Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton are battling for the Democratic nomination for president; both have won key states, though Obama has the most recent wins, capturing the Louisiana primary and caucuses in Nebraska and Washington state on Saturday. Obama won the Maine caucus Sunday.

Though Clinton and Carter lost, they both have won the category before (Clinton, twice). And Hillary Rodham Clinton took home a Grammy in 1996 for her audio version of the book "It Takes A Village."

Day-Lewis wins at British Academy Awards

LONDON (AP)—Daniel Day-Lewis won the best actor award at the British Academy Film Awards Sunday, cementing his place as an Oscar favorite for his role as a larger-than-life oilman in "There Will be Blood."

Marion Cotillard of France won the best actress prize for her portrayal of songstress Edith Piaf, while the literary tearjerker "Atonement" was named best picture.

Day-Lewis, a previous Oscar winner for "My Left Foot" and a favorite to win best actor at the Academy Awards in Los Angeles in two weeks, paid tribute to this year's strong field of nominees.

"It has been a mighty year and I am very proud to be included," he said.

The night's biggest surprise was the success of French-language Piaf biopic "La Vie En Rose," which took four prizes—music, costume design, makeup and the acting award for Cotillard's searing performance as the tragic songstress.

"Wow, wow, wow!" said a trembling, overwhelmed Cotillard. "It has been the most incredible adventure. I loved every single second of the shooting."

Joel and Ethan Coen took the directing award for their bleak modern-day western "No Country for Old Men," while Spanish actor Javier Bardem was named best supporting actor for his portrayal of a remorseless killer in the same film. Roger Deakins won the cinematography prize for capturing a stark Texan landscape in the film.

AP

French actress Marion Cotillard, second right, with her Leading Actress award poses for photographs with, from left, Spanish actor Javier Bardem with the Best Supporting Actor Award, British actress Tilda Swinton, the winner of the Best Supporting Actress Award, British actor Daniel Day-Lewis with his Leading Actor award and Sir Anthony Hopkins with his Academy Fellowship Award backstage at the British Academy Film Awards 2008 at the Royal Opera House in London, Sunday, Feb. 10, 2008.

Tilda Swinton was named best supporting actress for legal drama "Michael Clayton."

Swinton, who wore the evening's most outrageous outfit—an elaborate gold-and-black John Galliano creation—said she was surprised to win.

"Proof that I'm astonished—I would never have worn this skirt," she said.

Neophyte screenwriter Diablo Cody took the original screenplay prize for quirky teen-pregnancy comedy "Juno," while the original screenplay award went to Ronald Harwood for "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly."

The British awards—officially the Orange British Academy Film Awards but popularly known as BAFTAs—are considered an important indicator of success at the Oscars.

Middle-schooler being bullied must seek out trusted adult

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: The letter from "Hurt in Ohio" (Dec. 8), the 13-year-old girl who is being bullied, was deeply affecting. I have been a middle-school teacher for 10 years. I have seen what bullying can do to kids.

I'm proud that "Hurt" told her parents, but because that hasn't helped her, please tell her to find an adult at school whom she trusts and tell that adult what is happening. If she hasn't gotten a response within 24 hours, she should go to another adult, and another and another until someone listens.

And please, Abby, remind parents that ignoring the problem does not make it go away; it only makes it worse. Middle-school kids are especially vulnerable to bullying, and it must be stopped.

—MIDDLE-SCHOOL TEACHER IN INDIANA

DEAR MIDDLE-SCHOOL TEACHER: I advised "Hurt" to have her parents accompany her to discuss the situation with her counselor and the principal. However, it has been pointed out to me that being the victim of bullying sometimes happens to multiple generations in families in which the parents are extremely passive and tolerated it, and are unable to teach their children to be assertive.

Fortunately, more help is available for victims of bullying—and my readers, in addition to sharing their personal experiences, generously offered resources to combat it. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Please tell your readers that our federal government is concerned about bullying, because bullying increases school absenteeism and drop-out rates and can cause significant, long-lasting difficulties for victims.

As part of its anti-bullying campaign, the Health Resource Services Administration has an informative and user-friendly Web site: www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov. This site has sections for parents, school professionals and students.

Bullying is a national problem. We must work together to end this preventable injury.

—PEDIATRIC CHAPLAIN, ARLINGTON, TEXAS

DEAR ABBY: Allow me to suggest to "Hurt in Ohio," or anyone who is concerned about bullying in our schools, a Web site called www.safeschools.com.

—ANN IN FARMINGTON, N.M.

DEAR ABBY: "Hurt," who wrote about being bullied, as well as her parents, should explore the materials on the Southern Poverty Law Center's Tolerance Web site, www.tolerance.org, and direct the staff at her school there as well. A search on "bullying booklet" will provide hundreds of references for use. The materials are free to educators and are in use in thousands of schools. Every school and every person being bullied would benefit from SPLC's products. After all, bullying and ostracism have figured in school shootings and in many student suicides.

There is also excellent anti-bias material that has been used with great success in schools with problems similar to the recent one in Jena, La., heading off sad incidents like theirs.

—S.T.M., VERO BEACH, FLA.

DEAR ABBY: "Hurt in Ohio" mentioned that her friends won't stand up for her because they "like" the jocks who are tormenting her. Well, someone should inform her that those kids are not her "friends." On the contrary, they are enablers. Bullies love an audience, and silence indicates approval.

The answer is to teach students that not only schools, but they themselves should have zero tolerance for abusers.

—HENRY IN LITHICUM, MD.

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

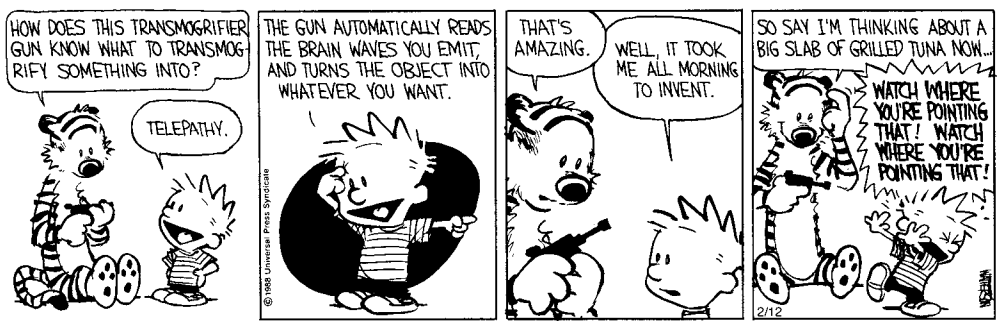
■ ■ ■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HOW DOES THIS TRANSMOGRIFIER GUN KNOW WHAT TO TRANSMOGRIFY SOMETHING INTO?
TELEPATHY.
THE GUN AUTOMATICALLY READS THE BRAIN WAVES YOU EMIT, AND TURNS THE OBJECT INTO WHATEVER YOU WANT.
THAT'S AMAZING.
WELL, IT TOOK ME ALL MORNING TO INVENT.
SO SAY I'M THINKING ABOUT A BIG SLAB OF GRILLED TUNA NOW...
WATCH WHERE YOU'RE POINTING THAT! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE POINTING THAT!
2/12

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

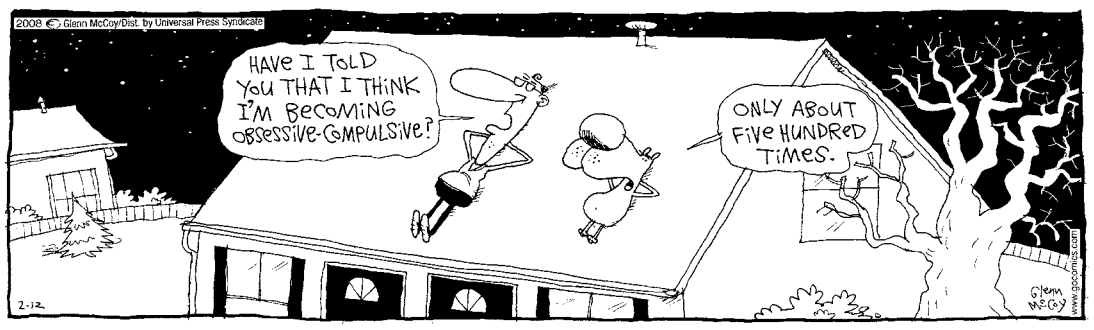
I'M LOOKING THROUGH A VETERINARY SUPPLY CATALOG FOR A VALENTINE'S DAY GIFT FOR LIZ
HMMM...
THINK SHE'D APPRECIATE AN ELECTRIC PROBE WARMER?
I KNOW I WOULD
VET SUP
JIM DAVIS 2-12

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy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HAVE I TOLD YOU THAT I THINK I'M BECOMING OBSESSIVE-COMPULSIVE?
ONLY ABOUT FIVE HUNDRED TIMES.
2-12

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Son of Jacob
5 Gear tooth
8 Skating venue
12 Detail
13 Actress Thurman
14 Canal zone?
15 Piece of cake
16 Certain breakup payment
18 Champion of a cause
20 Copenhagen populace
21 Massachusetts cape
22 Chinese vessel
23 Social level
26 Capital of Sicily
30 Past
31 Use 22-Across
32 Fresh
33 Easy-gaited saddle horse
36 Reflection
38 Columnist Smith
39 Thickness
40 Monastery bigwig
43 Inexperienced boxer
47 Unmistakably there
49 Bucket
50 Feed the hogs
51 Meadow
52 "— have to do"
53 Tense
54 TV chef Martin
55 "Hi, sailor!"

DOWN
1 Speech impediment
2 Italian volcano
3 Osso buco meat
4 Significant effect
5 February 14 archer
6 Mideast gulf
7 Guy's partner
8 2005's "King Kong," e.g.
9 Golf club
10 Baseball team
11 Singer Alicia
17 "American —"
19 A deer, a female deer
22 "The — We Were"
23 Upper limit
24 Khan title
25 Costa del —
26 Use a crowbar
27 Geneticist's abbr.
28 "Little Women" woman
29 Have bills
31 Shriner's chapeau
34 Type of computer disk
35 Hayworth or Moreno
36 Under the weather
37 Nearsightedness
39 Song of tribute
40 Basilica section
41 Hairless
42 Online diary
43 Entreaty
44 Inauguration recitation
45 Narc's measure
46 Partner
48 Journalist Nellie

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	L	A	R	■	V	O	W	■	E	B	O	N
W	A	S	H	■	I	D	O	■	A	O	N	E
L	I	E	U	■	S	E	N	O	R	I	T	A
S	C	A	M	P	I	■	G	A	L	L	O	P
■	■	■	B	U	T	T	■	F	A	D	■	■
S	E	N	A	T	O	R	S	■	P	O	L	E
U	R	U	■	T	R	E	Y	S	■	W	A	Y
M	A	I	M	■	S	E	N	T	E	N	C	E
■	■	S	I	N	■	S	A	I	L	■	■	■
A	Z	A	L	E	A	■	P	R	E	F	E	R
S	E	N	D	O	F	F	S	■	V	I	V	A
P	A	C	E	■	R	O	E	■	E	V	E	N
S	L	E	W	■	O	P	S	■	N	E	R	D

Yesterday's answer 2-12

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			17				
18				19			■	20				
■	■	■	21			■	22			■	■	■
23	24	25			■	26				27	28	29
30			■	■	31			■	■	32		
33			34	35			■	36	37			
■	■	■	38			■	39			■	■	■
40	41	42			■	43				44	45	46
47					48			■	49			
50				■	51				52			
53				■	54			■	55			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Christina Ricci, 28; Arsenio Hall, 53; Joanna Kerns, 55; Ray Manzarek, 69

Happy Birthday: Take action when it comes to business and partnerships. Position yourself to win, no matter what you do this year. Once you have gained the respect and attention you deserve, you can obtain what you want. This year, don't slack off or even think about being a couch potato. Your numbers are 11, 23, 25, 30, 36, 44

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): The influence you have on your future by the actions you take now will be long-term. Be sure you are fueling something that will make you happy, not burden you down the road. Be self-assertive. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Open up to the people you can trust and hold back if you are questioning anyone's loyalty. Love can play a major role where your status and future are concerned. Changes to your home and short trips will turn out well. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Keep your finances, thoughts and legal matters a secret. You will accomplish the most by doing what needs to be done and saying little. Emotional matters will escalate if you let someone goad you into talking about the way you feel. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): It's important for you to let others know where they stand. You will make an impact and catch the attention of someone you love if you let your heart lead the way. Begin a campaign you believe in. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You will lose it if you let someone get to you today. Hide your emotions if you don't want to say something that will work against you, causing grief in the future. Go through the motions without showing feeling. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Love is in the picture and socializing will bring a favorable turn of events. You will be dead-on in your assessments and finding solutions will be a breeze. Travel will lead to intrigue and spark creative, profitable ideas. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You'll be a sponge for information today, so put yourself in a setting that will allow you to learn. Join in conversations, take in a seminar or network with people who have something in common with you. A development will lead to a partnership. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Emotions will be high on the Richter scale so don't play with fire today. Play your cards close to your chest and see what everyone else is going to do first. If you hold your ground, you will win. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You have to put yourself in the limelight today. Once you make your ideas perfectly clear, you will be surprised at the feedback you get and the options you are given. Change may be necessary. ✪✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You may want to make some personal changes to your home or take a look at real estate but don't get wrapped up in committing to something that may cost you dearly in the end. You will be able to talk your way into a better price, deal or situation. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You may find it difficult to get along with loved ones today. Don't let anyone play with your emotions. Be firm and follow through if you want to accomplish anything. Don't let emotional matters slow you down. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Be gracious in your actions and show respect and fairness in your dealings and you will get what you want. Take a fresh look at where you came from and what your goals once were. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are pushy, progressive and popular. You are determined and dedicated to doing what will benefit you the most. You are intelligent, a free-thinker and have far-reaching goals.

Eugenia's Web sites: **astroadvice.com** *for fun,* **eugenialast.com** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

		9	4	5		1	2	
				7	1	3		
			8			4		
2	6				7			
1		8				6		3
			3				9	1
		6			5			
		5	9	3				
	2	1		4	8	7		

Difficulty Level ★★ 2/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	2	1	3	6	7	5	8	9
8	5	7	9	2	1	4	6	3
6	9	3	5	8	4	7	1	2
7	6	4	2	5	9	1	3	8
5	8	9	7	1	3	6	2	4
3	1	2	8	4	6	9	7	5
9	4	8	6	7	2	3	5	1
1	7	5	4	3	8	2	9	6
2	3	6	1	9	5	8	4	7

Difficulty Level ★ 2/11

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CASTING DIRECTORS **Solution: 6 letters**

D	L	E	N	A	P	E	R	F	O	R	M	E	R	R
S	E	K	R	E	C	N	A	M	R	O	F	R	E	P
S	E	C	H	O	L	L	Y	W	O	O	D	C	C	P
E	X	A	I	S	T	N	E	G	A	D	O	N	R	R
C	E	B	R	S	S	C	S	T	C	M	E	O	U	E
O	C	L	R	C	I	R	A	H	M	G	D	L	I	S
R	U	L	E	A	H	O	O	E	O	U	A	N	T	T
P	T	A	A	S	U	I	N	T	C	W	T	W	I	I
T	I	C	D	S	C	D	I	T	C	U	B	E	N	G
C	V	A	T	E	A	A	I	C	I	E	C	I	G	E
E	E	A	L	T	T	O	S	T	A	H	R	V	Z	L
L	G	O	I	E	N	Ⓢ	I	T	I	M	L	I	F	E
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P	H	O	T	O	S	A	R	R	Ⓐ	N	G	E	A	T

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Actor, Agents, Arrange, Arts, Audition, Call Back, Camera, Casting, Chief, Choice, Decision, Directors, Executive, Film, Hollywood, Intuition, Leads, List, Model, Negotiate, Panel, Performance, Performer, Photos, Prestige, Process, Production, Read, Recommendation, Recruiting, Role, Search, Select, Showbiz, Song, Stage, Tape, Teach, View

Yesterday's Answer: Antenna

Treasury 4 is available to order by sending check or money order for $10.95 plus $3.25 postage and handling ($14.20 total, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Universal Press Syndicate, Attn: Wonderword, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-6734, ext. 6688. Order online at upuzzles.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	**$25**
• 5-Liner	**$35**
• 3-Liner with picture	**$45**
• 5-Liner with picture	**$55**

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

As added service to our valued customers, you may now submit all your JVA placements for announcement/publication in *Saipan Tribune's* print and online edition and KZMI/KCNM at the same time. No more worries of having to go to two different locations every time you need to place job vacancy announcements. Special rates are available for JVA customers under this arrangement.

Print*

• 1st position	**$10**
• 2nd position	**$3**
• Succeeding positions	**$1**

LOWER RATES! Effective Feb. 3, 2007

Combo (Print and Online)*

• 1st position	**$13**
• 2nd position	**$4**
• Succeeding positions	**$2**

Radio (KCNM/KZMI)

• Up to 6 positions	**$5**
• More than 6 positions	**$10**

*These rates apply to all vacancy announcements that include corresponding benefits and which announcements are all under the same company name.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

- KCNM/KZMI: All ads placed on Friday (9am to 5pm) will be for Monday's radio announcement.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

FOR RENT RESIDENTIAL

Apartment For Rent (in Beach Road, Garapan) One (1) Bedroom fully furnished with back-up generator and 24 hour water, washer & dryer facilities in the building. For inquiries, pls. call 322-6183

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water $210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 HOUSEWORKER (T 3922)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Dominador Dimaano @322-3604.

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1 TRACTOR-TRAILER, DRIVER (T 3923)
Salary:$3.55-$6.70/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Consol. Trans. Serv. Inc. @322-1690 (L. Base)/234-2808 (Air).

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1 GRAPHIC DESIGNER (T 3924)
Salary:$3.55-$6.50/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: L&T international Corp. @322-1690.

1 COMPUTER TECHNICIAN (T 3925)
Salary:$3.55-$4.40/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: L&T international Corp. @322-1690.

1 COMPUTER PROGRAMMER (T 3926)
Salary:$1,972.00-$2,350.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: L&T international Corp. @322-1690.

1 PROGRAMMER, SYSTEM ANALYST (T 3927)
Salary:$3.55-$5.20/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: L&T international Corp. @322-1690.

1 ACCOUNTANT (T 3928)
Salary:$3.55-$4.50/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: L&T international Corp. @322-1690.

1 ACCOUNTANT (T 3929)
Salary:$1,972.00-$2,050.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: L&T international Corp. @322-1690.

1 ACCOUNTANT (T 3930)
Salary:$3.55-$7.56/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: L&T international Corp. @322-1690.

WHATZIT Solution: Sign of the times

1 ACCOUNTANT (T 3931)
Salary:$3.55-$4.50/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: L&T international Corp. @322-1690.

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1 HOUSEWORKER (T 3932)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/housing charge monthly; medical & workers compensation provided. Contact: Yuki Togawa @234-2829/28.

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1 SCUBA DIVING INSTRUCTOR (T 3933)
Salary:$634.00/monthly. Benefits: Medical expense & workers compensation employer provided. Contact: Scuba World, Inc. @322-3979.

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1 SALES REPRESENTATIVE (T 3934)
Salary:$3.05-$4.05/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: Grand International Corp.

WANTED AVON REPRESENTATIVE
and earn 30% up to 50%
for more information please call
Jocelyn Jeter
@ 287-9300 C • 989-5691 C
jeter_joy@yahoo.com

Commercial Space & Room for Rent
- 4000 sq.ft. commercial space, good for warehouse (previously rented to Mingli Wholesale), auto-shop, day-care, office, etc. Located in Chalan Laulau between Middle Rd. & Beach Rd. Back of Triple J Auto.
- Room from $80-$140/mo. behind Triple J Auto on Beach Rd. near to XO Market & H-Mart.

Call Ivan @ 235-0479, 285-9966, 9:00am - 6:00pm

Customers First
TRIPLE J

TRIPLE J ENTERPRISES, INC. is looking to hire a person to fill the position of:

Director of Human Resources

The candidate must be a college graduate in Human Resources or in a related field with a minimum of 5 yrs. experience. PHR or SPHR Certified is preferred. This person must be able to develop policies, direct & coordinate human resources activities, such as employment, compensation, labor relations, benefits, training & employee services. The ideal person must have knowledge of the U.S. Federal, Guam, CNMI, Palau, Marshall Islands, Japan & China Labor & Immigration Laws. Some travel required. Successful applicant must be willing to reside either on Saipan or Guam.

The following are duties & responsibilities:
- Analyzes wage & salary reports & data to determine competitive compensation plan.
- Prepares personnel forecast to project employment needs.
- Writes directives advising department managers of company policy regarding equal employment opportunities, compensation, & employee benefits.
- Consults legal counsel to ensure that policies comply with federal & local laws.
- Develops & maintains a human resources system that meets top management information needs.
- Oversees the analysis, maintenance, & communication of records required by law or local governing bodies, or other departments in the organization.
- Represents & or assists management in negotiating agreements.
- Writes & delivers presentations to corporate officers or government officials regarding human resources policies & practices.
- Coordinates & process H & L Visas.
- Oversees & directs Triple J subsidiaries & affiliates in Guam, Palau, CNMI, Marshall Islands, Japan & China.

Pls. send resume by facsimile at **(670) 234-7347**
or email to:
hrdirector@triplejsaipan.com

Competitive compensation including salary, 401K, vacation, medical & dental plan.
Pre-employment drug test & police clearance required upon selection.

Triple J is an equal opportunity employer.

WHATZIT™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

moments

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Find today's solution in this section

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB No.: ITB08-RDEQ-039

OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 22, 2008 **TIME: 10:30 a.m.**

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY-ROTA BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS OR BY FAX REQUEST TO (670) 664-1515.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees,/Workers' Compensation Commission/Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund, are hereby giving notice that the Board of Trustees will hold its Annual meeting on Friday, February 15, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. at the Supreme Court Building in Sinapalo, Rota.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting:
  - 1. January 10, 2008 2. January 11, 2008 3. February 01, 2008

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. REPORTS
- A. Report of the Chairman
  - 1. ROC No. 08-004
- B. Report of the Administrator / Correspondence
  - 1. ROA No. 08-004
- C. Report of the Comptroller
  - 1. Financials
    - a) NMIRF b) GHLITF c) WCC
- D. Reports of the Committees
  - 1. Finance & Investment Committee
  - 2. Operations & Personnel Committee
  - 3. Policies, Programs & Legislative Review Committee
  - 4. GH&L and WCC Committee
- E. Reports of the Investment Director
  - 1. Status of Investment/Market Condition
  - 2. Report of Housing Loan Program
  - 3. CGECU
- F. Communications
- G. Other Matters

IV. LEGAL MATTERS
- A. Reports of the Legal Counsels
  - 1. Report of the Board Counsel
    - a) Lawsuit
  - 2. Report of the In-house Counsel
    - a) Update on Administrative Appeals
  - 3. Report of the Hearing Officer

V. OLD BUSINESS
- 1. BR 08-001 Matters
- 2. Pension Application Matters
- 3. P.L. 15-98
- 4. DC Plan Update Report
- 5. Group Health Runoff Claims Funding Matters
- 6. WCC – Collection Attorney RFP & Proposed Regulations Matters
- 7. Pension Software & Laser Fiche Updates
- 8. Rota and Tinian office space & PSS Lease Status
- 9. Travel Policy and Bylaws Matters
- 10. OPA Audit and External Audit Updates

VI. NEW BUSINESS
- 1. Drawdown Request
  - a) February 07, 2008
- 2. Medical Certification for Disability Applicant
- 3. Benefits Overpayment – PSS
- 4. Review of Statutes and Regulations for Amendments
- 5. Employer Contribution Non-Receipt & Impact Matters

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS
- A. Announcements B. Next Meeting C. Adjournment

/s/ JUAN T. GUERRERO
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 SALES MANAGER (T 3935)
Salary:$3.05-$4.05/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: Grand International Corp.

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1 FARMER (T 3936)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/housing deductible; $100.00/food deductible & medical provided. Contact: Bernard V. Hofschneider @234-7158.

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1 FLORIST DESIGNER (T 3937)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing but EE pays utility; own food; medical; workmans compensation provided & provides own transportation. Contact: Rita C. Cruz dba The First Floral Shop @233-7482.

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1 COMPUTER PROGRAMMER (T 3938)
Salary:$5.00-$7.00/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. @234-6267.

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2 COOK (T 3939)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical benefits. Contact: Sheu's Brothers Holding Co., Ltd. @235-6128.

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1 BARTENDER (T 3940)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Medical benefits & workers compensation. Contact: R&H USA Inv. Corp. Ltd. @233-0779.

3 WAITR ESS/WAITER (T 3941)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Medical benefits & workers compensation. Contact: R&H USA Inv. Corp. Ltd. @233-0779.

2 SINGER (T 3942)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Medical benefits & workers compensation. Contact: R&H USA Inv. Corp. Ltd. @233-0779.

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1 BLDG. MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (T 3943)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: D&C Corporation @287-3622.

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1 FARMER (T 3944)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/deductible monthly; medical bill & workers compensation is provided by employer. Contact: Diego T. Benavente @288-0243.

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1 SECURITY GUARD (T 3945)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical expense & worker compensation. Contact: Yaong Corporation @235-8727.

1 ACCOUNTANT (T 3946)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical expense & worker compensation. Contact: Yaong Corporation @235-8727.

1 HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR (T 3947)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical expense & worker compensation. Contact: Yaong Corporation @235-8727.

1 CAR CLEANER (T 3948)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workman compensation provided. Contact: New Century Co., Ltd. dba Island Car Wash @233-1899.

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1 VICE PRESIDENT (T 3949)
Salary:$3,000.00-$3,855.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Century Insurance Co., Ltd. @234-0609.

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1 GENERAL MAINTENANCE (T 3950)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical expense & tax. Contact: Fausto V. Supnet dba Lawncare Janitorial Housing Service @433-4333.

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1 WELDER (T 3951)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self housing; self food; medical & workmans compensation to be provided by the employer. Contact: R.E.A.L International Corp. @433-4336.

3 MASON (T 3952)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self housing; self food; medical & workmans compensation to be provided by the employer. Contact: R.E.A.L International Corp. @433-4336.

1 DRESSMAKER (T 3953)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self housing; self food; medical & workmans compensation to be provided by the employer. Contact: R.E.A.L International Corp. @433-4336.

---

1 TOUR AGENT/ COUNSELOR (T 3954)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Hiro Corporation @233-4997.

1 SALES & MARKETING SUPERVISOR (T 3955)
Salary:$3.55-$5.80/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Hiro Corporation @233-4997.

1 ACCOUNTANT (T 3956)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provide housing; self provide food; workers compensation; group life insurance & medical. Contact: Seaside Mart, Inc. @234-6376.

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1 WAITRESS (T 3957)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Health & workmans compensation. Contact: J'smalotte Corporation dba Char's Snack Bar @235-7092.

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1 AUTO MECHANIC (T 3958)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provide housing; self provide food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Javili General Partnership dba YJC Auto Shop @235-4928.

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1 SEWER (T 3959)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provide housing; self provide food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Zhen Rui Brother Corp. dba Ah Biao Clothing Store @233-8877.

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1 SALES CLERK (ATTENDANT) (T 3960)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; free medical expense & workman's compensation. Contact: Pam Pacific Development Inc. dba Pena House Boutique @235-6888/7888.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (T 3961)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; free medical expense & workman's compensation. Contact: Pam Pacific Development Inc. dba Pena House Boutique @235-6888/7888.

2 GARBAGE COLLECTOR (T 3962)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; free medical expense & workmen's compensation. Contact: AYD Services, Inc. @235-7011.

4 HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR (T 3963)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; free medical expense & workmen's compensation. Contact: AYD Services, Inc. @235-7011.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP08-DEQ-036

SUBMISSION: March 12, 2008 **TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

"DEVELOPMENT OF A HEALTH AND SAFETY PROGRAM FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OFFICE, LOCATED IN THE GUALO RAI CENTER BUILDING, SAIPAN, OR ELECTRONICALLY BE E-MAIL TO **jamescallier@deq.gov.mp.**

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR **2:00 P.M., ON FEBRUARY 27, 2008** IN THE 2ND FLOOR DEQ CONFERENCE ROOM. QUESTION REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE SUBMITTED BY FACSIMILE TO **MR. JIM CALLIER, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR,** AT (670) 664-8540 OR BY E-MAIL AT **jamescallier@deq.gov.mp.** NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS **FEBRUARY 29, 2008.**

/s/ DAVID B. ROSARIO
ACTING DIRECTOR, DEQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP08-DEQ-021

SUBMISSION: March 12, 2008 **TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

"DEVELOPMENT OF THE CNMI BROWNFIELDS VOLUNTARY RESPONSE PROGRAM GUIDANCE DOCUMENT AND PROGRAM FORMS FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OFFICE, LOCATED IN THE GUALO RAI CENTER BUILDING, SAIPAN, OR ELECTRONICALLY BE E-MAIL TO **raymasga@deq.gov.mp.**

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR **1:00 P.M., ON FEBRUARY 27, 2008** IN THE 2ND FLOOR DEQ CONFERENCE ROOM. QUESTION REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE SUBMITTED BY FACSIMILE TO **MR. RAY MASGA, MANAGER SITE ASSESSMENT AND REMEDIATION BRANCH,** AT (670) 664-8540 OR BY E-MAIL AT **raymasga@deq.gov.mp.** NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS **FEBRUARY 29, 2008.**

/s/ DAVID B. ROSARIO
ACTING DIRECTOR, DEQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP08-DEQ-037

SUBMISSION: March 12, 2008 **TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

"HISTORICAL RESEARCH AND THE CONDUCT OF BROWNFIELDS INNVENTORY AND SURVEY OF MILITARY SITES OF THE ISLANDS OF TINIAN AND ROTA FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OFFICE, LOCATED IN THE GUALO RAI CENTER BUILDING, SAIPAN, OR ELECTRONICALLY BE E-MAIL TO **raymasga@deq.gov.mp.**

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR **3:00 P.M., ON FEBRUARY 27, 2008** IN THE 2ND FLOOR DEQ CONFERENCE ROOM. QUESTION REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE SUBMITTED BY FACSIMILE TO **MR. RAY MASGA, MANAGER SITE ASSESSMENT AND REMEDIATION BRANCH,** AT (670) 664-8540 OR BY E-MAIL AT **raymasga@deq.gov.mp.** NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS **FEBRUARY 29, 2008.**

/s/ DAVID B. ROSARIO
ACTING DIRECTOR, DEQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

The Saipan Tribune now offers
Classified Ads Super Saver Package
for Print and Online Editions
A complete 7-day run for car sales, employment, garage sales, apartment rentals, announcements, lost and found, business services, and more…
3-LINER AD $25
3-LINER AD W/ PHOTO $45
5-LINER AD $35
5-LINER AD W/ PHOTO $55
Get results. Advertise now!
Call now at 235-2769 for more details.
Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
SUNDAY Saipan Tribune
Liquidated Fund assets
CLASSIFIED ADS

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 08-01
United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands

DOCKET CLERK

Location: GARAPAN, SAIPAN, MP PERMANENT FULL-TIME
Grade CL-24 $28,806 per annum, plus 25% COLA
(With promotion potential to CL-26, $35,040 to $57,000 plus COLA)

OPEN: February 7, 2008 CLOSING DATE: February 14, 2008
The Court reserves the right to withdraw or extend the closing date for this position.

Position Overview:
This position is located in the Clerkís Office of the U.S. District Court, in Saipan. The incumbent receives and reviews documents for conformity with federal and local rules, including electronic case filing from Internet users, and assists with case management. The incumbent also acts as cashier, assists with courtroom operations, and assists with shelving of law library materials. Information is at: http://www.nmid.uscourts.gov

Minimum Qualifications:
Applicants must be a high school graduate or equivalent and must have two years general experience and one year specialized experience, which has provided a good understanding of office clerical practices and knowledge of legal procedure and or legal pleading. Applicants must also have excellent office computing skills.

Educational Substitutes:
Education above high school level in accredited institutions may be substituted for the general experience on the basis of one academic year equals nine months of general experience.

Desirable Qualifications:
An Associate (AA or AS) college degree is desirable. Applicants should possess the ability to exercise mature judgment and the ability to communicate effectively in writing and orally. Strong legal office and/or administrative work experience is desirable.

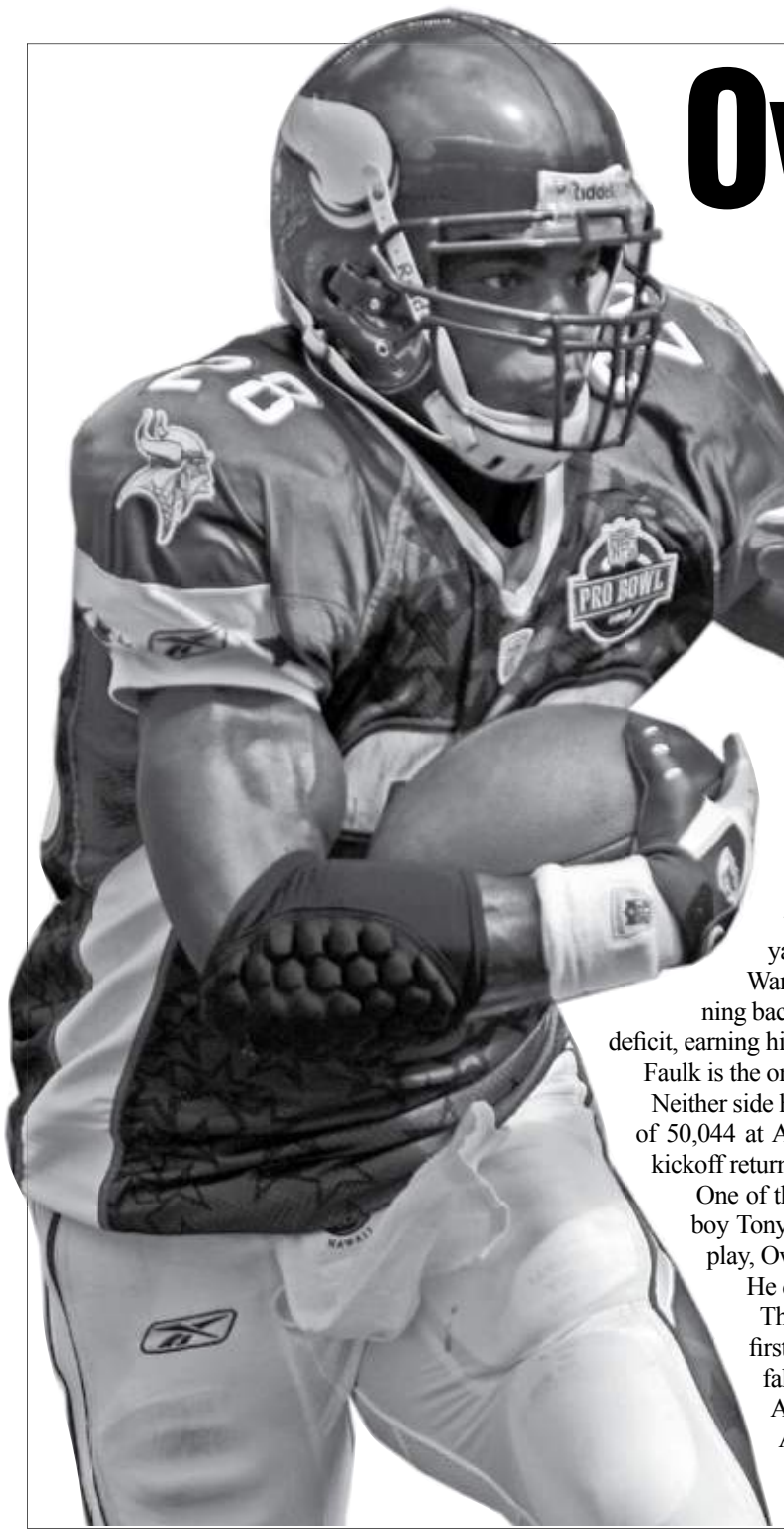
Other Requirements:
Applicants are required to be U.S. citizens or aliens who are authorized to work in the United States. The selected candidate will be subject to a background check as a condition of employment. All appointments subject to mandatory electronic funds transfer (Direct Deposit) for payment of net pay. Applicants selected for interviews must travel or relocate at their own expense. The incumbent is subject to a six (6) month probationary period.

Application Procedure:
Each applicant is required to submit a cover letter; plus an AO-78 application form, and a five-year salary history. Optional resume may be included with AO-78 application. AO-78 forms are on the Internet at: http://www.nmid.uscourts.gov, or may be picked up at the U.S. District Court. Submit applications by hand delivery, or by fax or email with originals mailed and postmarked by closing date, to:

Clerk of Court
United States District Court
for the Northern Mariana Islands
2nd Floor, Horiguchi Building, Garapan
P.O. Box 500687, Saipan MP 96950

(Fax 670-236-2910 galo_perez@nmid.uscourts.gov)

The U.S. District Court is an Equal Opportunity Employer



Owens and Peterson lead NFC comeback

HONOLULU (AP)—They could have played this Pro Bowl on the beach with flag football rules. All of which was to the liking of Terrell Owens and Adrian Peterson.

Making up for early sloppiness, Owens caught two touchdowns passes, including a 6-yarder from Tampa Bay's Jeff Garcia for the winning points in the NFC's comeback 42-30 victory over the AFC on Sunday.

Owens was aided by Offensive Rookie of the Year Peterson, whose 129 yards rushing was the first performance of more than 100 yards since Marshall Faulk had 180 and Chris Warren added 127 in 1995. The Minnesota running back scored twice as the NFC rallied from a 24-7 deficit, earning himself MVP honors.

Faulk is the only other rookie to be voted MVP of the Pro Bowl.

Neither side held back the tricks, to the delight of the sellout crowd of 50,044 at Aloha Stadium. There was a fake punt, a throwback kickoff return and a handful of fourth-down gambles.

One of those was a 34-yard pass to Owens from fellow Cowboy Tony Romo that sparked the comeback. Before that huge play, Owens had a pair of ugly drops that drew boos.

He quickly turned them into cheers.

The 48 first-half points tied the Pro Bowl record for the first two periods. The only punt of the half turned into a fake and an 11-yard completion from San Francisco's Andy Lee to Minnesota fullback Tony Richardson. After Peterson gained 24 yards on two plays, Romo threw to Larry Fitzgerald, who dived across the goal line to tie it at 7.

On the opening drive, Colts quarterback Peyton Manning and Chiefs tight end Tony Gonzalez set the frenetic pace with completions of 31 and 25 yards around a botched snap that cost the AFC 20 yards. Browns receiver Braylon Edwards, one of 41 newcomers (including injured players) beat Seattle's Marcus Trufant on another 31-yarder before Lorenzo Neal dived in from the 1. The San Diego fullback, a 15-year veteran, scored his first Pro Bowl touchdown.

The scoring never abated. T.J. Houshmandzadeh caught TD throws of 16 yards from Manning and 1 from Pittsburgh's Ben Roethlisberger. The Cincinnati receiver's second score came after Antonio Cromartie, the league's interception leader, returned a tipped pass 56 yards to the AFC 29.

Just before that, a comical kickoff runback attempt by Dallas linebacker DeMarcus Ware resulted in a fumble at the NFC 29 recovered by Baltimore's Ed Reed. Tennessee's Rob Bironas kicked a 33-yard field goal.

With the AFC on top 24-7, Romo and Owens got their team back in it. The big play before Owens' 6-yard TD catch was a fourth-and-13 conversion that Owens broke for 34 yards to the 7.

After Bironas nailed a 48-yarder, the NFC continued its comeback. Seattle's Matt Hasselbeck was particularly sharp on a 77-yard touchdown drive he capped with a 17-yard pass to Redskins tight end Chris Cooley. Peterson broke two tackles on a 39-yard run to spark the series, and that was two fewer tacklers than he avoided on his 17-yard jaunt down the left sideline for a 28-27 NFC lead early in the third quarter.

A pair of unsportsmanlike conduct penalties, of all things, against the NFC for illegal defenses allowed Bironas to make his third field goal, a 28-yarder to recapture the lead.

That prompted more shenanigans on the NFC's kickoff return. Bears record-setter Devin Hester ran right for 14 yards, then threw a perfect spiral to his left to Jason Witten. The tight end, one of 13 Cowboys in the game, showed some nice open-field moves in adding 35 yards to the runback.

Then Cromartie got his second pick when Rams wideout Torry Holt deflected Garcia's pass into the Chargers cornerback's hands. Quite a debut for someone who barely played before the 2007 season.

But it was Peterson's debut that was most impressive. He finished off the scoring with a 6-yard romp with 2:43 remaining.

The AFC leads the series 20-18.

McNamee lawyer predicts criminal probe

NEW YORK (AP)—One of Brian McNamee's lawyers said Sunday he believed the Justice Department will open a criminal investigation into Roger Clemens' denials of doping.

Meantime, the chairman of a congressional committee said comments attributed to one of the pitcher's lawyers could be interpreted as trying to intimidate a federal law enforcement official.

Clemens gave a five-hour deposition last week to staff lawyers of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform prior to Wednesday's public hearing. McNamee, former personal trainer to the seven-time Cy Young Award winner, gave a seven-hour deposition.

"I think there will be a criminal prosecution after Wednesday, and that means there will be grand jury proceedings and subsequent proceedings," said Richard Emery, one of McNamee's attorneys. "I don't see there's any possibility that Brian has any jeopardy. I only see the possibility of Clemens getting investigated by Justice, whether or not Congress refers it."

A message left Sunday night requesting Justice Department comment was not immediately returned.

Told of Emery's comments, Rusty Hardin, Clemens' lead lawyer, said: "They have consistently acted and indicated that they have a pipeline to agents of the Department of Justice. Whether they do or not, it certainly raises a lot of questions of whether what's going on here is proper. So I'm not going to express any predictions of what will or will not happen."

McNamee says he injected Clemens with steroids and human growth hormone at least 16 times in 1998, 2000 and 2001, accusations Clemens has repeatedly denied. Both are set to testify Wednesday on Capitol Hill in what figures to be a day of high drama.

"Our position is very simple: Roger did not take steroids, he did not use human growth hormone, and he has demonstrated that he is willing to repeatedly testify under oath as to the truth of those matters," Hardin said.

McNamee last month gave the Justice Department what he says are needles from times Clemens used performance-enhancing drugs, evidence that the pitcher's legal team says is manufactured. Emery said he thinks there will be a Justice Department investigation of Clemens even if the committee doesn't ask for one.

"If the tests come back that he is connected with those syringes, they have evidence that contradicts his sworn statement to federal officials," Emery said.

Hardin was quoted in Sunday's New York Times as saying it would be "brazen" and "unbelievable" if IRS Special Agent Jeff Novitzky, a key prosecutor in the BALCO drug cases, attends the hearing.

"If he ever messes with Roger, Roger will eat his lunch," Hardin was quoted as saying.

Rep. Henry Waxman, the committee chairman, wrote a letter to Hardin on Sunday saying that some comments by Hardin and McNamee's lawyers were "inadvisable."

"I do not know your intent in making this statement, but under one interpretation it can be seen an attempt to intimidate a federal law enforcement official in the performance of his official duties," Waxman wrote. "It is not your client's prerogative to dictate who attends or does not attend the hearing. ... I trust you did not intend your comments to be a signal that there could be adverse repercussions to a federal law enforcement official for attending the hearing or taking other official actions."

Hardin said he was writing a letter of response to Waxman.

"I will respond accordingly but hope and trust that the chairman will not hold against my client any of the dissatisfaction he has with me," Hardin said.

The committee called this hearing as part of its probe into the Mitchell Report, in which McNamee went public with his accusations against Clemens. The same committee last month asked the Justice Department to investigate whether former AL MVP Miguel Tejada lied when he told staff in 2005 that he never took illegal performance-enhancing drugs and had no knowledge of other players using or talking about steroids. The FBI's field office in Washington is handling that inquiry.

Barry Bonds, baseball's career home run leader, was indicted in November on four counts of perjury and one count of obstruction of justice in connection with grand jury testimony in which he denied knowingly using performance-enhancing drugs.

Clemens spent two days visiting congressmen last week and may again on Tuesday.

His agent, Randy Hendricks, responded Sunday to an article by four professors from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School who criticized an 18,000-word statistical report Hendricks Sports Management issued to rebut accusations that the pitcher's career rebounded about the time he is accused by McNamee of using performance-enhancing drugs.

Hendricks' report compared Clemens' performance during the second half of his career to those of Nolan Ryan, Curt Schilling and Randy Johnson.

"By comparing Clemens only to those who were successful in the second act of their careers, rather than to all pitchers who had a similarly successful first act, the report artificially minimizes the chances that Clemens' numbers will seem unusual. Statisticians call this problem selection bias," professors Eric Bradlow, Shane Jensen, Justin Wolfers and Adi Wyner wrote in Sunday's Times.

They compared Clemens' ERA and walks plus-hits-per-inning with those of 31 pitchers since 1968 with 3,000 innings and 10 or more starts in at least 15 seasons.

"The available data on Clemens's career strongly hint that some unusual factors may have been at play in producing his excellent late-career statistics," they said, while adding, "in any analysis of his career statistics, it is impossible to say whether this unusual factor was performance-enhancing drugs."

Hendricks said the criteria used by the professors was flawed, and that they ignored criteria such as Clemens' ERA margin vs. that of the league and strikeouts. Hendricks' report tried to refute any perceived misconceptions that Clemens' career was on the downside when he left Boston after the 1996 season. While the professors claimed Clemens was in decline in his late 20s, Hendricks pointed out Clemens was an All-Star in consecutive years from age 27-29, finished second in Cy Young at age 28, then won it the following year.

"The professors make the mistake of thinking that his career arc should look like the arc of every other pitcher in their selected group," Hendricks said in a statement. "These 'statisticians' are engaging in precisely the kind of insinuation with their words that they say cannot be proven by statistics."

Steve Lowery wins Pebble Beach

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP)—Having gone more than seven years and 199 tournaments without winning, Steve Lowery had every reason to feel out of his element Sunday.

He was on the 18th tee at Pebble Beach, one of the most famous spots in golf.

He was in a playoff against Vijay Singh, one of golf's toughest customers.

And he never felt more at ease.

Lowery took advantage of a stunning collapse by Singh, who made three straight bogeys on the back nine, then put him away on the first extra hole with a 7-foot birdie putt to win the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

"I couldn't have given it any more in 18 holes," said Lowery, who closed with a 4-under 68. "I just told my caddie, 'I've got nothing to lose.' Just go out and play aggressive. If anything, it kind of freed me up a little it. I just felt like I didn't have anything to lose."

The 47-year-old Lowery became the oldest champion in the 71-year history of this event, and under a variety of circumstances, one of the more surprising winners.

He was No. 305 in the world ranking when he arrived on the Monterey Peninsula. He suffered a freak wrist injury last year that kept him out for three months and gave him temporary status this season. Most surprising of all is that Lowery was three shots behind Singh when he walked off the 14th tee.

Singh made three straight bogeys, only a wedge into 2 feet on the 18th hole for birdie at a 71 allowed him one last chance in a playoff. That didn't last long, as Singh found two more bunkers on the 18th in overtime and did well to make par.

AP

Golfer Steve Lowery holds a trophy after winning the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am golf tournament in Pebble Beach, Calif., Sunday, Feb. 10, 2008.

Both players finished at 10-under 278.

"I let this one slip away," Singh said. "I was in control, but those (bogeys) took a little air out of me. I still should have won the tournament. There's no excuse for that."

Lowery earned $1.08 million and a two-year exemption. He was on a minor medical extension because of the wrist injury and was given eight tournaments to earn $282,558 to keep his card the rest of the year.

He was only exempt to opposite-field events in Mexico and Puerto Rico the next two months.

Now he's going to the Masters.

It was his first victory since the 2000 Southern Farm Bureau Classic and third in his career, all won in playoffs.

"After seven years and winning on this course against Vijay and everything ... it's probably the most special," Lowery said.

The first playoff at Pebble Beach since 1992 didn't even seem remotely possibly when Lowery walked off the 14th green with a bogey. He was three shots behind Singh, who had just hit a brilliant flop shot to 6 feet to save par on the 13th.

Turns out that was a sign of sloppy play that followed.

Singh went at the flag on the 14th with a sand wedge from 92 yards, but it was a tad strong and spun down the slope, and the best he could do was chip to 20 feet and make bogey. He missed the 15th green to the left, chipped weakly and missed an 8-footer for par.

The free fall continued on the 16th when Singh hit fairway metal into a bunker, went over the green down a slope to the back bunker and two-putted from the fringe for his third straight bogey.

His only break came on the 18th in regulation, when his tee shot bounced off the trunk of a tree and deflected to the left. No such luck in the playoff, however. From a fairway bunker, Singh's second shot hit the top of the trap, leaving him a 4-iron into the green, and that one caught a plugged lie. He blasted out to 8 feet and saved par.

Dudley Hart, who started the final round tied with Singh, didn't make a birdie until making three in a row at the end for a 72 to finish one shot out of the playoff. He tied for third with John Mallinger (65) and Corey Pavin (66).

Jason Day, the 20-year-old from Australia, finished alone in sixth after a 70.

Pebble Beach was the final tournament to qualify for the Accenture Match Play Championship. Pat Perez shot 72 and tied for 24th, but it was enough for him to get into his first World Golf Championship. Perez moved up one spot No. 65, and with Ernie Els not playing, he will face Tiger Woods in the first round, provided no one else withdraws.

"I can't lose either way," Perez said. "If I beat him, I'm a hero. If I don't, I'm not supposed to win."

Lowery took his first lead with a 20-foot birdie on the par-3 17th, but he traces victory to earlier in the day, and the tournament. On Saturday, he made two double bogeys on the back nine at Poppy Hills, but poured in five birdies over the final six holes to stay in the game.

Anthony-Iverson tandem scores 52 in Denver's rout of Cavaliers

CLEVELAND (AP)—Carmelo Anthony scored 27 points, NBA All-Star sidekick Allen Iverson added 25 and the Denver Nuggets rolled over the listless and limping Cleveland Cavaliers 113-83 on Sunday.

Anthony didn't have to play in the fourth quarter and improved to 8-2 in his pro career against good friend LeBron James, who scored 30 points—in three quarters—but got little help from a Cleveland team missing four key players, including two starters.

Denver led by 11 points after one quarter, 18 at halftime and 26 by the end of the third. At the end of the period, James stormed off the court and didn't take part in coach Mike Brown's huddle before the fourth quarter.

As he sat alone, Cavaliers guard Damon Jones yelled in James' direction. But Cleveland's superstar never acknowledged his teammate and stared straight ahead without saying a word.

Lakers 104, Heat 94

At Miami, Kobe Bryant scored 33 points, and Los Angeles used a 16-2 second-half run to pull away and beat the skidding Heat in Miami's first home game of its post-Shaquille O'Neal era.

Mark Blount finished with 22 points for Miami, which has lost seven straight and 22 of its last 23.Shawn Marion, playing his first game for the Heat since Wednesday's stunning deal that sent O'Neal to the Phoenix Suns for he and Marcus Banks, finished with 15 points and 14 rebounds.

Lamar Odom finished with 15 points and 18 rebounds for the Lakers, who've won five of seven so far on a nine-game road. Sasha Vujacic scored 13 points and Pau Gasol added 12.

Celtics 98, Spurs 90

At Boston, Paul Pierce scored 35 points, Ray Allen had 19, and Rajon Rondo had 12 assists and 11 rebounds as Boston improved to 5-2 since losing Kevin Garnett to an abdominal strain.

Tim Duncan had 22 points, 14 rebounds and six assists, and Manu Ginobili scored 21 for San Antoniol, which lost for the first time in five games. San Antonio got within four points in the final minute, but twice Ginobili was forced to take off-balance 3s that weren't even close.

Nets 101, Mavericks 82

At East Rutherford, New Jersey, Vince Carter scored 25 of his 29 points after nearly being knocked out by an elbow to the head, and inconsistent New Jersey reeled off 21 straight points to stun Dallas.

Richard Jefferson added 19 points and Jason Kidd put aside trade rumors once again to finish with 13 points, 14 assists and six rebounds, falling four rebounds shy of his 100th career triple-double.

Dallas' All-Star forward Dirk Nowitzki was limited to 21 points, only 10 points after the first quarter.

Pistons 113, Bobcats 87

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, Tayshaun Prince scored 14 of his 21 points in the first quarter and Detroit won its eighth straight game.

Detroit led 27-7 after just nine minutes, aided by Charlotte missing 12 of their first 14 shots. Prince outscored the Bobcats by a point in the quarter, hitting four 3-pointers and adding two rebounds and two assists.

Raptors 105, Timberwolves 82

At Minneapolis, Andrea Bargnani scored 16 points and Jose Calderon had 15 points and 10 assists for his second consecutive double-double to help Toronto beat Minnesota.

All-Star Chris Bosh added 14 points for the Raptors.

Al Jefferson led Minnesota with 18 points.

Suns 108, Wizards 107

At Phoenix, Amare Stoudemire had 31 points, including two game-clinching free throws with 7.5 seconds to play, and Phoenix handed Washington its seventh straight loss, its longest skid in nearly four years.

Antwan Jamison scored 28 points and Brendan Haywood a season-high 21 for the Wizards.

Stoudemire also had 13 rebounds and four blocked shots for the Suns, who played with their newest member Shaquille O'Neal watching from the bench in street clothes.

Garnett out of All-Star game, Wallace in

BOSTON (AP)—Boston Celtics forward Kevin Garnett withdrew from the NBA All-Star game Sunday and was replaced on the Eastern Conference roster by Detroit Pistons forward Rasheed Wallace.

The announcement was made by the commissioner's office after Garnett missed his seventh consecutive game with an abdominal strain. Celtics coach Doc Rivers, who will coach the East in the Feb. 17 game in New Orleans, said Garnett will not play until the team returns from the break.

"He's out until after the All-Star break," Rivers said after the Celtics beat the San Antonio Spurs 98-90 to improve to 5-2 since Garnett was injured.

Garnett was averaging 19.2 points and 9.9 rebounds per game before being sidelined two weeks ago after straining a stomach muscle on Jan. 25 against the Timberwolves. He was the leading vote-getter for the All-Star game, but Rivers said that Garnett would probably not play Tuesday or Wednesday, in Boston's last two games before the break.

Rivers, who will coach the East in the game, said he hoped Ray Allen would be considered as Garnett's replacement.

"He should be (an All-Star) anyway. I wouldn't be surprised if it wasn't Ray they use," Rivers said. "It would be nice to have Ray on. I would take Ray."

Wallace will join teammates Chauncey Billups and Richard Hamilton for the All-Star game New Orleans. It will be his fourth All-Star appearance.

Wallace is averaging 12.9 points and 7.3 rebounds this season, and leads Detroit in blocks and steals.

Saipan Little League board to meet Wednesday

The 2008 Saipan Little League Baseball Association board of directors will have a meeting tomorrow, Wednesday, 11:30am at Tropicana Restaurant at Hafadai Beach Hotel.

The meeting is to identify what other things need to be done before the actual games start on Saturday at the Francisco M. Palacios and Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan baseball fields.

The 2008 season opened last Friday, Feb. 8, with a brief ceremony at the FMP baseball field where various government officials and members of the legislature attended the event.

The board has yet to finalize the schedule of games in the Majors division.

On Saturday, Feb. 16, the Fielders will take on the Jets at 9am in the Juniors division and will be followed by the Senior league match between the Jets and Fielders.

Sunday's schedule will have the Aztecs battling the PTI Dolphins in the Big League at 9am. while the UMDA Ol'Aces face the Kagman Lion Hearts in the Junior division match.

For more information, call SLLBA board secretary Bobbie S. Norita at 235-7025 to 32 at extension 113 or 114. ***(Jon Perez)***

LISS to hold Valentine's Walk on Feb. 14

Ladera International School of Saipan will host its Inaugural Valentine's Nature and Health Walk on the day of hearts itself this Thursday, Feb. 14.

LISS said the purpose of the event is to educate the school's students on the importance of health and fitness, as well as fellowship among students and to develop an appreciation for nature, its elements, and values.

According to LISS, the Inaugural Valentine's Nature and Health Walk will include an approximately three-kilometer walk from the Kilili Beach main pavilion to Triple J Motors.

Games and other sporting activities will be held during the event, which will be from 8am to 2:30pm.

Everyone participating will have lunch at Kilili Beach. Lunch menu includes marinated chicken, beef or pork spare ribs, sausages, red/white rice, salads, snacks, and drinks. ***(Mark Rabago)***

WORLD

From Page 28

pressure. PIC surely missed the services of Butch Kaipat, who failed to suit up after being suspended at work.

Kaipat is averaging 15.2 points, seven rebounds, five assists, and 2.3 steals per game and provides reliable scoring support from Derrick Tudela.

World Resort dropped a 19-8 bomb in the fourth period to close in at 75-76 highlighted by Mangahis' three straight mid-range jumpers, time down to six minutes and 13 seconds.

Vinas gave World Resort its first taste of the lead when he scored past the outstretch arms of PIC's Richard Pambid, 77-76, 5:47 to go.

A Tudela split free throw, after being fouled by Clifford Hamoy in the 5:37 mark of the game, tied the count at 77-all.

Vinas tried to score quickly at the other end and was fouled by Marino Pungilug with 5:11 left in the game clock. He split his charities as World Resort regained the lead, 78-77.

PIC coach Robert Lloren called timeout to talk with his wards. When play resumed, PIC turned the ball over and allowed World Resort to score in the other end as they left Vinas open, who buried an uncontested 3-pointer as World Resort hiked their lead to 81-77, 3:30 left.

PIC's scoring drought continued as they went scoreless for almost three minutes, while Vinas and Mangahis continued with their heads-up plays for World Resort.

A 10-4 exchange, highlighted by a Vinas 3-pointer and a bullet pass to a waiting Gerry Gayo, proved to be World Resort's knockout punch that zapped the fight out of PIC as they enjoyed a 91-81 spread with 2:04 left in the game.

Mangahis, who was held to six points in the second period, scored 22 of his season-high 27 points in the second half, while Vinas—limited to two free throws in the opening canto—made 26 of his 35 markers in the final two quarters.

Vinas and Mangahis also combined for 19-for-25 in the free throw line. Vinas also had three rebounds, six assists, and five steals, while Mangahis had three steals and blocked one shot.

Tudela paced PIC's losing cause with 22 points and 11 rebounds, while Richard Pambid added 17 points and 10 rebounds. James Abuy also had 17 points while Alfred Fernandez made 10 markers.

PIC outrebounded World Resort, 41-29, but their opponents had 15 steals—most of it coming in the crucial stages of the fourth quarter—against the eight they made the whole game.

Earlier, Bernard Aquino had a near triple-double with 36 points, eight rebounds, and seven assists to lead Hyatt to a 97-63 crushing of Aquarius Beach Tower.

Krisgel Arreza added 28 points and eight rebounds, while Mike Umali ended up with 16 markers and nine rebounds. Dexter Dillay was held to eight points but had five assists and seven steals.

Jason Bahillo scored 18 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to lead Aquarius' losing cause while George Barbo chipped in 17 markers.

First Game

Hyatt Regency Saipan 97 – Aquino 36, Arreza 28, Umali 16, Dillay 8, Yamamoto 5, Mendoza 4.

Aquarius Beach Tower 63 – Bahillo 18, Barbo 17, Trajano 8, Alvarez 5, Guzman 5, Rapanut 4, Achas 2, Brien 2, Cordero 2.

Scoring by quarters: 29-11, 51-31, 76-44, 97-63.

Second Game

Saipan World Resort 100 – Mangahis 37, Vinas 35, Hamoy 9, Navarro 8, Gayo 5, Lanzo 3, Ramos 3.

Pacific Islands Club 84 – Tudela 22, Abuy 17, Pambid 17, Fernandez 10, Pungilug 8, Swain 5, Tolentino 3, Lee 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-28, 33-47, 56-68, 100-84.

SSC

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of the Year awards.

According to an observer, SSC head coach Michael Stewart voted for Rezne Wong and Kensuke Kimura in the 2007 Male Athlete of the Year and 2007 Male Student Athlete of the Year, respectively.

Although, Wong and Kimura were still part of SSC when they were nominated, the two are now swimmers of Tsunami Saipan.

SSC co-founder and NMSF president Willem "Bill" Sakovich, meanwhile, weighed in on the pros and cons of having two swimming clubs on Saipan.

"On one side 'the more clubs, the better'—sports thrives on competition, so that is good. However, with the present economic situation, it could be tough for both clubs, since each will be fighting for their own money, and it could be tough times for the two clubs," he said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Sakovich, who along with wife Jean founded SSC more than years ago and were inducted in the NMASA Hall of Fame in 2003, also defended his decision to accept the membership application of Tsunami Saipan in NMSF.

"As the president of NMSF, and to further develop sport at this time, knowing the situation, it was in the best interest for swimming to do what I did," he said.

Sakovich earlier said that he will be on Saipan in the first week of March 2008 and would be able to meet with both officials of Tsunami Saipan and SSC, "and help implement the new board."

As members of NMSF, SSC and Tsunami Saipan will have to work together in choosing swimmers to represent the CNMI in off-island events. NMSF–constituted by a board chosen by both clubs—would also be responsible in nominating swimmers to NMASA's Athlete of the Month and Athlete of the Year awards.

FOUR-WAY

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the Independents' win forced a four-way tie in the standings as they joined their victims with similar 2-1-1 W-L-D marks.

Chris Nelson led Inter's scoring when he connected in the 41st minute to give his team enjoy a 1-0 lead at the half.

John Duenas doubled their lead in the 50th minute, while Eigo Komatsu made it 3-0 in the 77th as they capitalized on Onwel's struggling offense.

Jersh Angeles and Eli Torgeson, who is best known as a racing enthusiast, scored one goal each in the Independents' 2-1 win over FC Arirang.

In the other game, Multinational FC cruised to a 9-0 crushing of the rookie Ol'Aces.

Ho Kyum Lee had a hat trick to lead Multinational FC's scoring as they improved their record to 2-2-0, while Ol'Aces suffered their fourth straight loss.

Joe Miller started MFC's scoring when he found the bottom of the goal in the ninth minute, while Sewoon Park connected in the 37th minute to help his team to a 2-0 halftime lead.

Ho Kyun Lee scored early in the second half when he booted one of his three goals in the 46th, while Hyun Lee added his own goal in the 51st minute. Ho Kyun Lee scored again in the 58th, while Park booted one more in the 61st.

T.J. Gurung connected with back-to-back goals in the 71st and 75th minute, while Ho Kyun Lee closed out his scoring in the 84th minute.

Men's Football League committee chair Michael Thomas also reminded teams that no games will be played on Feb. 17, Sunday, to give way for a planned tournament by the Korean Football Association.

Thomas said all games scheduled on Feb. 17 would be played on April 6. He added that there would also be some minor changes on the March 30 and April 6 games.

LEONG

From Page 28

in the first two singles and the lone doubles matches on Friday and Saturday.

Samoa's Juan Sebastian Langton suffered a 1-6, 1-6, 2-6, drubbing from Ghareeb, while Leong teamed up with Cyril Jacobe but were overpowered by Ghareeb and Mohammad-Khaliq Siddiq, 2-6, 2-6, 2-6.

With his 1-1 record against the Kuwait No. 1, Leong improved his record to 11-8 overall and 11-5 in singles play. He remains winless in doubles matches, however, dropping to a 0-3 mark.

Langton's loss dropped his overall mark to an even 18-18 in the Davis Cup and now holds an 8-10 mark in singles matches.

Mainguy succeeded the CNMI's Jeff Race at the helm of the Islanders, while Gerard Winter of New Caledonia serves as the team manager for the first tie.

Other Group II ties results had China and New Zealand scoring consecutive 5-0 wins over Lebanon and Oman while Indonesia edged Hong Kong, 3-2.

Pacific Oceania now faces host Oman in the playoff round from April 11 to 13, while Lebanon battles Hong Kong. China meets Indonesia, while New Zealand battles Kuwait in the second round.

The winners of the matches between Pacific Oceania and Oman and Lebanon and Hong Kong will advance into the next round while the losers will be relegated to Group III in 2009.

In the winners bracket, the victors in the matches between China-Indonesia and New Zealand-Kuwait will play against each other in the third round from Sept. 19 to 21. The winning nation will be promoted to Asia/Oceania Group I next year.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	39	9	.813	–
Toronto	27	22	.551	12 1/2
New Jersey	22	29	.431	18 1/2
Philadelphia	21	30	.412	19 1/2
New York	15	36	.294	25 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	32	20	.615	–
Washington	24	26	.480	7
Atlanta	21	26	.447	8 1/2
Charlotte	18	33	.353	13 1/2
Miami	9	40	.184	21 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	37	13	.740	–
Cleveland	28	22	.560	9
Indiana	21	30	.412	16 1/2
Chicago	20	30	.400	17
Milwaukee	19	32	.373	18 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

New Orleans	34	15	.694	–
Dallas	34	16	.680	1/2
San Antonio	32	17	.653	2
Houston	30	20	.600	4 1/2
Memphis	13	37	.260	21 1/2

Northwest Division

Utah	33	19	.635	–
Denver	31	19	.620	1
Portland	28	22	.560	4
Seattle	13	37	.260	19
Minnesota	10	39	.204	21 1/2

Pacific Division

Phoenix	36	15	.706	–
L.A. Lakers	33	17	.660	2 1/2
Golden State	30	20	.600	5 1/2
Sacramento	23	26	.469	12
L.A. Clippers	16	32	.333	18 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Boston 98, San Antonio 90
L.A. Lakers 104, Miami 94
New Jersey 101, Dallas 82
Detroit 113, Charlotte 87
Toronto 105, Minnesota 82
Denver 113, Cleveland 83
Phoenix 108, Washington 107

PEBBLE BEACH NATIONAL PRO-AM SCORES

Final Round

x-Steve Lowery, $1,080,000	69-71-70-68	278
Vijay Singh, $648,000	70-70-67-71	278
Corey Pavin, $312,000	73-69-71-66	279
John Mallinger, $312,000	67-74-73-65	279
Dudley Hart, $312,000	69-70-68-72	279
Jason Day, $216,000	69-70-71-70	280
Nicholas Thompson, $193,500	69-69-74-70	282
Dustin Johnson, $193,500	73-68-68-73	282
Jason Gore, $150,000	70-74-69-70	283
Joe Ogilvie, $150,000	74-69-70-70	283
Tag Ridings, $150,000	73-71-68-71	283
Brent Geiberger, $150,000	69-73-71-70	283
Y.E. Yang, $150,000	69-73-68-73	283
Jim Furyk, $87,360	71-75-67-71	284
Padraig Harrington, $87,360	72-70-70-72	284
James Driscoll, $87,360	72-68-72-72	284
Daisuke Maruyama, $87,360	71-72-71-70	284
D.A. Points, $87,360	68-73-70-73	284
Parker McLachlin, $87,360	70-70-74-70	284
Mike Weir, $87,360	75-69-71-69	284
Fredrik Jacobson, $87,360	73-67-70-74	284
Shane Bertsch, $87,360	77-70-68-69	284
Michael Allen, $87,360	68-70-71-75	284
Pat Perez, $44,400	74-70-69-72	285
Chris Riley, $44,400	73-68-72-72	285
Andrew Buckle, $44,400	69-73-71-72	285
Davis Love III, $44,400	70-71-72-72	285
Marco Dawson, $44,400	73-69-72-71	285
Bo Van Pelt, $44,400	74-74-67-70	285
Paul Stankowski, $44,400	74-72-69-70	285
Craig Kanada, $44,400	72-71-72-70	285
Jeff Quinney, $44,400	69-70-71-75	285
Ryan Armour, $44,400	71-71-68-75	285
Matt Kuchar, $28,400	74-69-69-74	286
John Riegger, $28,400	72-70-70-74	286
Tom Pernice, Jr., $28,400	70-74-70-72	286
Tim Herron, $28,400	68-69-74-75	286
Lee Janzen, $28,400	74-69-72-71	286
Jay Williamson, $28,400	68-71-72-75	286
Jin Park, $28,400	72-69-74-71	286
Mark Wilson, $28,400	68-71-72-75	286
Robert Damron, $28,400	71-70-70-75	286
Mathew Goggin, $19,800	71-70-72-74	287
Kevin Na, $19,800	71-69-73-74	287
Olin Browne, $19,800	68-73-73-73	287
Justin Leonard, $19,800	70-71-74-72	287
Alejandro Canizares, $19,800	70-73-72-72	287
Robert Floyd, $15,264	68-70-74-76	288
Kent Jones, $15,264	66-74-71-77	288
Tim Petrovic, $15,264	76-66-73-73	288
Greg Kraft, $15,264	72-73-70-73	288
Ryan Moore, $15,264	71-70-74-73	288
Charlie Wi, $13,824	73-72-70-74	289
Jim McGovern, $13,824	71-69-71-78	289
Jonathan Kaye, $13,824	70-71-70-78	289
Carlos Franco, $13,824	71-73-71-74	289
Jeff Maggert, $13,824	72-73-70-74	289
Nick Watney, $13,320	76-71-67-76	290
Alex Cejka, $13,320	72-72-70-76	290
Brandt Snedeker, $13,320	73-72-70-75	290

x-won in playoff

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

HANMI Cup Standings

Fiesta-Grand	5	1
Aqua Resort Club	5	1
Pacific Islands Club	4	2
Hafadai Beach Hotel	3	3
Hyatt Regency Saipan	3	3
World Resort Saipan	2	5
Aquarius Beach Tower	0	5

NMIFA Men's Standings

	W	L	D	Pts
FC Arirang	2	1	1	7
Onwel	2	2	1	7
Inter	21	1	1	7
Independents	2	1	1	7
Multinational FC	2	2	0	6
Ol'Aces	0	4	0	0

DCCA pledges support to Saipan Little League

PHOTOS and TEXT
By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs has pledged its full support to the Saipan Little League Baseball Association, which opened its 2008 season last Friday.

The Saipan Little League held its opening ceremony at 6pm at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field where government officials and members of the Legislature welcomed the 30 participating teams in the four divisions.

Games where not played last Friday and action will begin on Feb. 16 at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan and FMP fields. The SLLBA board decided to hold separately the ceremony and opening games due to the unavailability of the FMP field, which is still being used by the visiting Korean professional baseball team LG Twins.

DCCA acting secretary Melvin Faisao, who represented Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Tim Villagomez, said the Fitial-Villagomez team is supporting the Little League program since they are great baseball fans.

Faisao said the Capital Hill baseball field is available every Wednesday to be used by all teams participating in the 2008 season. He also added that the DCCA would lower the rates that were proposed for the Tuesday and Thursday night games at the FMP baseball field.

Thirty teams spread out in four divisions will begin their respective quests for titles as the 2008 season when games begin on Saturday. Fifteen teams will be competing in the Major division, while four will vie for the Junior League crown. The Senior and Big League divisions have five teams each.

Teams in the Big and Senior League divisions listen to the opening remarks of Saipan Little League Baseball Association board president Juan I. Tenorio in last Friday's opening ceremony of the 2008 Saipan Little League season.

Teams in the Junior and Major divisions line up during the opening ceremony of the 2008 Saipan Little League season at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

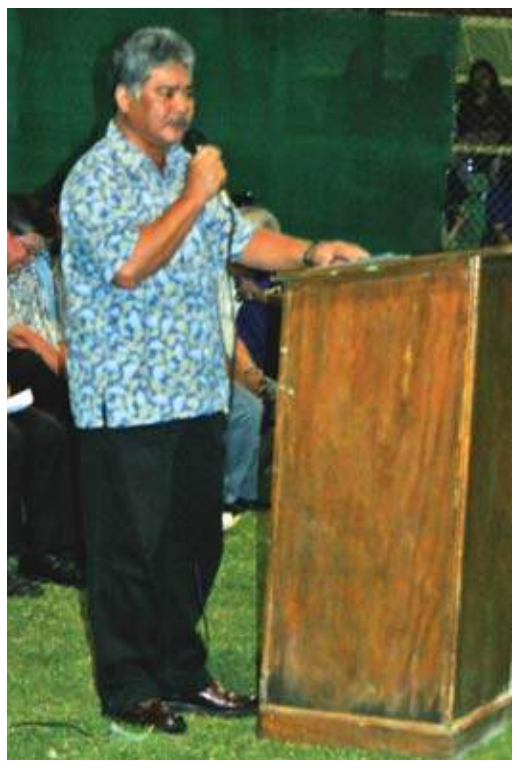
Some of the participating teams in the Major division listen to the speech of Senate President Pete P. Reyes.

Some of the VIPs that attended Friday's opening ceremony.

From left, Saipan Mayor's Office public information officer Tony Benavente, Rev. Raymond Kinsella, Rev. Jose Enteria, 2007 CNMI Little Miss Marianas Kayla Borja, and mother Evelyn Borja listen to the speeches given by the invited guests.

Jonah Flores, left, and Patrick Somorang lead their colleagues in reciting the Little League pledge.

SLLBA board vice president and player agent Mike Borja, right, holds the microphone while Jonah Flores, left, and Patrick Somorang lead their colleagues in reciting the Little League pledge.



House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios delivers his words of wisdom.

CNMI district administrator and international board director James Ada gives his opening remarks.

DCCA pledges support to Saipan Little League

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs has pledged its full support to the Saipan Little League Baseball Association, which opened its 2008 season last Friday.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Owens, Peterson lead NFC comeback

They could have played this Pro Bowl on the beach with flag football rules. All of which was to the liking of Terrell Owens and Adrian Peterson.

24

World Resort wins in yet another HANMI shocker

Pacific Islands Club's Raymund Tolentino, left, slips out of Saipan World Resort Jerryfel Mangahis' sticky defense in their 2nd Annual HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League game Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

JON PEREZ

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Four days after Hafadai Beach Hotel's stunning win over last year's finalist Hyatt Regency Saipan, Saipan World Resort pulled off another shocking victory in the 2nd Annual HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League.

World Resort stunned powerhouse Pacific Islands Club, 100-88, in Sunday night's final match at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Fans were a bit disappointed after the highly anticipated match between defending champion Aqua Resort Club and dark horse Hafadai was reset, but World Resort gave them a thrilling match.

Jerryfel Mangahis and Dennis Vinas played the heroes' role for World Resort as they waxed hot in the final quarter combining for more than half of their team's points in the second half.

The win was the second against five losses for World Resort but more importantly it snapped their four-game slide and regained their confidence after suffering an 85-104-blowout loss from Hyatt Regency Saipan last Feb. 3.

World Resort's win also ended PIC's four-game winning streak. Despite the loss, PIC remains half a game behind Fiesta-Grand and Aqua Resort's 5-1 marks in second place.

World Resort, which started the game with only five players, since most of their men were still on duty at the Susupe hotel, came back from a 27-point deficit to pull the rug from under PIC. World Resort's players came one by one as the game progressed.

Trailing 36-63, midway in the third quarter, World Resort went on a 20-5 tear in the final five minutes to trim PIC's lead to 56-68 entering the final canto.

Sensing that momentum was slowly shifting on their side, World Resort coach Atoy Banting instructed his wards to never let up and continue with their sticky man-to-man defense.

PIC did not know what hit them as they ran into a spate of turnovers and their key scorers cracking under World Resort's defensive

See WORLD on Page 28

SSC welcomes Tsunami Saipan to NMSF

DAN KIMBALL

Saipan Swim Club members competed against swimmers from Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan during the 3rd Annual Heptathalon Swim Meet held last Feb. 1 and 2 at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The more-established Saipan Swim Club is welcoming the fledgling Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan to the fold of the Northern Marianas Swimming Federation.

"SSC is in full support of the approval and we look forward to working with Tsunami Saipan in the future," SSC president Michael Johnson said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Tsunami Saipan was formed early last year by former members of the SSC. The relationship between the rival clubs has not always been smooth but recently appear to have thawed.

This was most evident during the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association meeting last Thursday, where representatives from local sports federations voted for winners of the Athlete

See SSC on Page 28

Four-way logjam for lead

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Victories by Inter and Independents against their opponents on Sunday created a four-way logjam for the lead in the 2008 Men's Winter Football League at the Oleai Field inside the Susupe Sports Complex.

Inter scored a 3-0 blanking of Onwel, while the Independents edged FC Arirang, 2-1. Inter and

See FOUR-WAY on Page 28

Leong steals one for Islanders

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Pacific Oceania top seed Michael Leong stole one for the Islanders in their 2008 Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Zone Group II tie against Kuwait on Sunday at the Bassam Al-Motawa Tennis Center in Mishref, Kuwait.

The Solomon Islands' Leong bounced back from his 1-6, 1-6, 4-6 loss against Abdullah Magdas in the second rubber when he defeated Ali Al Ghareeb in the reverse singles on Sunday.

Leong scored a hard-earned 6-4, 7-5 win over Ghareeb, who is Kuwait's top seeded player and is ranked 434 in singles and 288 in doubles in the Association of Tennis Professionals Tour.

The win snapped the Islanders' three straight losses against the hosts after they previously lost

See LEONG on Page 28

Leong